Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**POLL RESULTS**

Do you intend to watch this year's Liberation Day parade?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 24 |
| No | 99 |
| Maybe | 12 |
| Undecided | 4 |

Sunday, July 8, 2012

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Americans flee from unrelenting heat that has killed 30 across the country. ➤ PAGE 14

**WORLD**

Intense flooding in the Black Sea region of southern Russia kills 103 people. ➤ PAGE 16

**LIFE & STYLE**

Justin Bieber is cited for driving in excess of 65 mph in a freeway chase. ➤ PAGE 20

CHC's OB-gyne running with just one doctor. PAGE 5
Video footage played in Miah, Mirano case. PAGE 9

# Deadlock on Article 12 initiative

## Manglona: Adding 99-year lease is constitutional, would get more support from voters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Barely a month before the deadline for all initiatives to be submitted for placement on the Nov. 6 ballot, the House of Representatives and Senate are deadlocked on an Article 12 legislative initiative that would change the 25-percent blood quantum requirement to "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination of these, in order to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent.

See DEADLOCK on Page 4

## Water, wastewater electric fees reduced

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has announced that water and wastewater electricity charges will go down effective Friday, July 6. This comes on the heels of a cut in the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, by 10.81 percent this month.

Both water electric charge and wastewater electric charge are only adjusted at a time when the LEAC electric rate is changed. LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that the new water electric charge is now $3.05 for every 1,000 gallons pumped each month—a slight reduc-

See WATER on Page 4

**CAR WASH FOR A CAUSE**

A member of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band joins his colleagues and members of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club led by its president Apollo Madriaga in washing cars and other types of vehicles at the parking lot of McDonald's on Middle Road yesterday to help raise funds for the band's trip to London later this month to perform at the 2012 London Olympics. The Manta Ray Band will also hold a garage sale on Sunday on the grounds of Mount Carmel Cathedral, also to raise funds for their two-week trip as they are still short of some $40,000 to meet their $250,000 target. The band continues to seek monetary donations.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos

## 'It was USDA that pulled plug on $10M CUC loan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» **Saipan delegation panel seeks CUC reimbursement of $1M to customers**

It was the U.S. Department of Agriculture—and not the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.—that pulled the plug on CUC's $10 million loan with Rhode Island-based Independence Bank when the federal agency realized that the utilities agency does not have the ability to repay the USDA-guaranteed loan, according to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

CUC is under a state of emergency because of financial, procurement and hiring crises, among other things. It is now again under the direct control of the Executive Branch.

Inos said USDA as the loan guarantor "has decided not to move forward" with the loan.

A USDA-guaranteed loan would have a much lower interest rate than a regular loan. Inos said CUC is not considering applying for another loan at this time, given its financial standing.

"My understanding is that it was USDA that felt that CUC is not financially capable

See USDA on Page 4

# Local

## Judge: Issues need to be resolved in land compensation case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has determined that there still legal issues to be resolved in connection with a lawsuit filed by 79-year-old Luisa Quitugua, who has been waiting for 27 years to be paid by the government for the taking of her land in As Teo.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said Friday that a recent CNMI Supreme Court ruling in a land case, *Commonwealth v Lot No. 343*, raises issues relevant to the Quitugua case.

In the absence of government payment to Quitugua, Wiseman ordered Quitugua and the Office of the Attorney General to research the law and issues brought forth in the recent high court ruling.

Wiseman said the specific law and issues are: The government holding title without full payment or a certain and adequate method of payment to Quitugua; and Quitugua's entitlement to post-judgment interest from the government.

Wiseman ordered the parties to return to court to discuss these issues on July 12, 2012, at 1:30pm for a further status conference.

Wiseman ordered the government in August 2005 to pay Quitugua the principal sum of $77,137 plus interest at 3 percent per annum and post-judgment at 9 percent in compensation for the lots taken from her.

When the government failed to pay the judgment, Quitugua asked the court in December 2009 to issue an order that will help her collect the compensation.

Despite 15 consecutive hearings, the landowner still failed to get relief from the court. This prompted Quitugua's family in April 2012 to close a portion of Santa Lourdes Road where the lots are located. At the time, Quitugua said she has received from the government nothing but promises for 27 years.

On May 16, 2012, Wiseman held a hearing where the parties discussed post-judgment enforcement issues against the government. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay represented the government at the hearing. Quitugua appeared without a lawyer. Her son Elbert served as her counsel.

In his order issued Friday, Wiseman said his final judgment confirmed an agreed upon amount by the Department of Public Lands and Quitugua to pay her for the taking of her land for public domain.

Wiseman said DPL, through its attorney, raised the legal issue that payment of the judgment should not come from DPL but from the Commonwealth Treasury. DPL took this issue to the CNMI Supreme Court, which decided that it is the government and not DPL that is responsible for this judgment.

Thereafter, Wiseman said, the government, represented by its attorney, appeared in court for several status conferences on the issue of payment on the judgment.

At these hearings, the government expressed its helplessness in satisfying the judgment in view of a statute which provides that a final judgment against the government shall be paid only if the Legislature appropriates money for it.

Wiseman said that Quitugua was the owner of a property taken from her under eminent domain and had been promised to receive compensation from the Commonwealth as documented by the final judgment.

"A prejudgment partial payment was initially made, leaving the balance owing. …Since that time, Ms. Quitugua has approached years of elderly age and desires to be paid on the judgment during her lifetime," Wiseman said.

The judge noted that the recent Supreme Court ruling raises issues applicable to the proceeding of Quitugua's case. He cited Title I of Commonwealth Code Section 7207, a statute that has counterparts in other U.S. jurisdictions, which requires that the payment of the judgment can only be satisfied by legislative appropriation.

The Legislature has not made any appropriations for payment to Quitugua.

Wiseman said the Supreme Court's recent ruling held that the statute, Section 7207, is not unconstitutional.

Wiseman said the High Court's ruling, however, raises issues as to whether or not the government is entitled to have title to the property taken under eminent domain when full compensatory payment has not been made.

The judge said he does not have any record of a judicial deed of the property transferring to the Commonwealth.

Wiseman said, however, that according to the High Court decision, when the government takes title prior to the payment of post-compensation, the government must provide a future certain and adequate method of obtaining compensation.

Without full compensation, the title must remain with the property owner until the Commonwealth appropriates or otherwise guarantees the necessary funds for Quitugua's land, said Wiseman.

As for post-judgment interest, Wiseman said the government is generally exempt from post-judgment interest. However, he said, the High Court ruling held that the rule against the accrual of post-judgment interest against the government does not apply in a situation where "the government has taken property without payment of just compensation."

"Therefore, it appears Ms. Quitugua, under these circumstances, may be entitled to post-judgment interest from the Commonwealth," Wiseman said.

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# Former govt counsel urges stop to 'looting' of Fund by lawyers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former CNMI government lawyer has urged U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris to protect the NMI Retirement Fund's dwindling assets from further "exorbitant, unnecessary and unjustified fees" being demanded by the Fund's Boston-based law firm.

In a letter to Faris filed in federal court on Friday, attorney Mary E. Flanagan asked the judge to closely examine the reasonableness of all Fund monies proposed to be paid to the various professionals now involved in the case.

Flanagan, now based in Florida, used to serve in the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Auditor, and as legal counsel for a former governor. She says she is receiving benefits as the surviving spouse of a deceased member of the defined benefits plan of the Fund.

She pointed out that, as Faris himself had stated, the treatment of retirees has been shameful over many year. "Of course the Bankruptcy Court cannot right all of these wrongs. The court can, however, endeavor to avoid compounding past mistakes by allowing more virtual looting of the Fund," she said.

As former CNMI attorney general Richard Weil and David Price have stated in their recent letters to Faris, Flanagan said that initiating the bankruptcy action was ill-advised and questionable as it has cost the Fund a significant amount of money at a time when every dollar matters.

On particular note, Flanagan said, the selection "process" for the Boston-based law firm of Brown and Rudnick is suspect and may well have been manipulated.

"I understand that you now have before you a request for $1.2 million in various additional professional fees, a large portion of which is claimed by the Brown and Rudnick firm," she said.

Attorneys' fees and expenses being demanded by the lawyers involved in the Chapter 11 case have reached a total of $844,650.93, covering the period from April 17, 2012 to June 13, 2012.

Of that amount, the Brown and Rudnick law firm is demanding $719,293.50 for professional services plus $46,644.32 in reimbursement for expenses, for a total of $765,937.82.

Flanagan said that leaving aside the wisdom and fairness of the original agreement for the Fund to pay Brown and Rudnick $750,000 ("and the secretive circumstances surrounding its award"), one must ask on what basis they can possibly justify even more money.

"For what? Many of their actions seem solely motivated by the desire to run up fees," she said.

Flanagan cited as examples the filing of multiple actions against other CNMI government agencies for nonpayment of employer contributions, and transferring the Superior Court judgment to the Federal Bankruptcy Court for collection, even before the Bankruptcy Court ruled on its jurisdiction.

The lawyer also cited the law firm's filing in the last few days, requesting the Bankruptcy Court to approve the transfer of real property in San Vicente.

"Why this being done now, after the court has indicated its intent to dismiss the bankruptcy action for lack of jurisdiction?" she asked.

Flanagan said that since the retainer agreement with the law firm was negotiated in secrecy without any input from any other governmental agency or the Commonwealth Retirees Association, the court should closely scrutinize an itemized breakdown of all of the law firm's claimed costs and expenses.

"The court and the retirees need to know exactly what the Fund is being asked for pay for," she added.

Flanagan pointed out that $1.2 million would pay 200 retirees under the defined benefit plan an annual minimum of $6,000 for a year.

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# Clinics, CHC might be asked to share Medicaid matching costs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration is considering asking health service providers such as private clinics, pharmacies, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to help build a separate account that will be used strictly to locally match federal Medicaid funds, but Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said this is just one of the options being looked at and is not firmed up yet.

Under this proposal, each provider would be asked to move 10 percent, for example, of their supposed Medicaid reimbursement to a separate account that will be used as local matching fund.

Right now, the CNMI government provides Medicaid funding through appropriation or inclusion in the annual budget.

The Fitial administration's revised fiscal year 2013 budget is proposing an additional $1 million in Medicaid matching fund, from the previous submission of $2.5 million.

Inos said one of the options considered is to have "earmarks" for Medicaid matching fund.

A revenue-generating bill could be passed to set aside proceeds of that proposal to be used for local matching.

Another way would be for healthcare providers to set aside 10 percent—or a higher/lower percentage—of their supposed reimbursement and build up that account to be used only for local matching.

"What it does is it shields the funding from other uses. The key is, 'what is the source?'" Inos told reporters on Friday.

He added that this is a "policy decision."

To illustrate his point, Inos said a service provider charges $100 for Medicaid, and that consists of 55 percent federal funds and 45 percent local matching funds. But for simplicity sake, he used a 50 percent federal and 50 percent local matching scenario.

"The CNMI government takes your billing and bills Medicaid $50, under a 50-50 matching. [The CNMI government] receives that $50 [from federal], puts it together with the CNMI's $50, to pay you $100. Before you get paid, they [CNMI] take out $10. And puts it here, and build that up for local matching. In other words, they as the providers are actually providing, they're the ones paying for the local match. But they get the benefit of it in turn," Inos said.

He said this could be established by law. Inos said input from providers will be sought.

"It's not one of those at-will. It's really in a way a tax but it's only on the service providers," he said, adding that this includes CHC.

He said this "cost-sharing" is also done in other states.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier told reporters that he asked assistant attorney general Jim Stump to look into this option, referring to a 10-percent deduction from Medicaid reimbursement that providers get to help build up an account for future local matching.

Last week, the Medicaid office talked about a plan to have a bill introduced that would create a reserve account for specific taxes that will be solely intended for Medicaid matching requirements. For example, the Legislature can increase certain taxes such as for tobacco and a portion of that tax will go directly to the reserved account for the Medicaid program.

At present, all appropriations and collections of the government go directly to the general fund and, until it has funds, that's the only time the government can pay out obligations, such as that for Medicaid.

Currently, the CNMI pays 45 percent of the program's operations, while the federal side is 55 percent.

Medicaid is a health program for people and families with low incomes and resources.

Inos also said he's not aware that the Medicaid program is having personal favoritism as to who gets paid first and by how much. He said there are criteria being followed.

He also spoke of plans to eliminate optional services being provided to program beneficiaries, which the Medicaid office disclosed last week.

If this plan pushes through, the optional services that will be cut could include clinic services, optometry services, other practitioner services, dental, physical therapy, occupational therapy; speech, hearing, and language disorders; prescribed drugs, dentures, prosthetic devices, eyeglasses, wheelchair, medical supplies, rehabilitative services, and transportation to off-island facility.

# PIC mum on drowning of 2 women

The Pacific Islands Club has remained mum on the drowning of two Korean women at its swimming pool early Thursday morning.

PIC Saipan executive assistant Vicky Benavente on Friday said the Department of Public Safety is currently investigating the incident.

"Until the DPS investigation has been completed, we cannot release any information to the general public or media," said Benavente in an email.

DPS said the victims, ages 26 and 27, were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor pronounced one dead at 2:43am and the other at 3:18am.

DPS said a security guard discovered one victim floating facedown on the pool surface, while the other was found at the bottom of the pool.

The guard jumped into the pool to rescue the victims. Other hotel employees helped.

DPS has yet to confirm whether alcohol was a factor in the incident. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## DEADLOCK

*From Page 1*

Under Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution, only persons of Northern Marianas descent can own land in the CNMI.

The deadlock came as a result of the House's rejection on Friday of the Senate's amendment to the initiative, which raises the maximum number of years that private lands can be leased—from the current 55 years to 99 years.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said last night he was "surprised" by the rejection of the Senate amendment, adding that it is not unconstitutional to put the two issues together—the blood quantum and land lease—since they are in Article 12.

"If anything, adding the 99 years would help their cause to amend the blood quantum requirement because there are also many people who want the 99-year lease and would therefore vote for that initiative during the election. That would increase the chance of that initiative being ratified by voters. If the House wants to address the blood quantum issues, I don't see why they object to another concern that many people also wants addressed," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

All the 15 House members present during Friday's session voted "yes" to floor leader George Camacho's (Ind-Saipan) motion to reject House Legislative Initiative 17-3, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1.

Acting House speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), author of HLI 17-3, said the House leadership chose to shoot down the Senate-amended version of the initiative because it now contains two different and major subjects—the NMD blood requirement and the 99-year lease provision.

"The House wants to make sure that the initiative contains only one major subject, and that is the blood requirement. It's not because we oppose the 99-year lease, but we want to make sure the initiative carries only one major issue. We could agree to separate the two, and go ahead with the original version of the initiative," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* after the session Friday afternoon.

Manglona reiterated that the Senate's amendment to the initiative does not render it unconstitutional

House members interviewed said they need further clarification about the Senate's amendments to HLI 17-3. But Manglona said the only amendment was the 99-year lease.

Previously, the Senate drafted a different version that included not only the 99-year lease, but also amended the Article 12 provision on NMD corporations and adoptions. That draft was scrapped and the final version contains only the 99-year lease amendment.

Still, Ogumoro said, the House needs clarification.

"I am for the two houses coming together on this initiative. In the end, we might agree with the Senate's version but right now, we need clarification on the amendments," Ogumoro added.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said the Senate will work with the House on this Article 12 initiative.

This comes two months after the Senate killed a legislative initiative to repeal Article 12 in its entirety.

Hofschneider said if the House does not object to raising the maximum number of lease years from 55 to 99, then maybe it's time for the House to act on a separate Senate bill that proposes a 99-year lease. This bill has been with the House for months.

Manglona called for special sessions today and Wednesday, but Hofschneider said the priority is to act on the concurrent resolution capping the fiscal year 2013 budget at $114 million. The House adopted that resolution on Friday.

Ogumoro appointed three House members to the conference committee on Friday: House Natural Resources Committee chair Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), and herself.

Manglona said he will name the Senate conferees this week.

Lawmakers supporting an amendment to the blood quantum requirement said as NMD's continue to marry non-NMD's, future generations of Chamorro and Carolinian families will not own land merely because they fall below the 25-percent blood quantum requirement.

They also said a constitutional proposal to amend the one-quarter blood quantum requirement to "at least some degree" will continue to preserve the culture and traditions of the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians and allow future generations of Northern Marianas descendants to own ancestral lands.

The House also rejected the Senate's amendments to House Bill 17-214, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), which seeks to strengthen the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. Ogumoro said the conferees will be named at a later date.

The House also passed on Friday a 15-month-old legislative initiative that could pave the way for floating millions of dollars in bonds to help pay the government's outstanding debt to the beleaguered NMI Retirement Fund, now at over $320 million in unpaid employer contributions and interest.

Manglona said the Senate supports a pension obligation bond but would have to take a closer look at the initiative.

## WATER

*From Page 1*

tion from the current $3.15 per 1,000 gallons of water.

For the wastewater electric charge, the new rate is $1.86 per 1,000 gallons monthly—from the current $2.97 per 1,000 gallons.

The average residential customer using 10,000 gallons of water per month will save about $1, Warren said. If they are also connected to a sewer, they will save an additional $11.10 every month.

The new charges will be applicable to all customer classes.

CUC earlier disclosed that majority of residential ratepayers use 10,000 gallons or less of water and wastewater service per month.

The current water and wastewater electric charges were approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission at a rate hearing held in January this year.

The new electric charges were enacted to reimburse CUC for all power costs associated with the production, treatment, and transportation of water and wastewater.

CUC adjusted its LEAC rate effective Friday from $0.29569 per kilowatt-hour to $0.26373 per kWh. According to Warren, the new rate's impact to average residential customers using up to 500 kWh monthly is a savings of $11.95 in their monthly bills.

Even without the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission at this time, CUC can make the necessary adjustments because the January 2012 tariff that the commission approved allows an automatic adjustment of the LEAC rate not to exceed 4.5 percent of the current LEAC rate. Once the commission reconvenes, all rate adjustments implemented since January will be reviewed.

## USDA

*From Page 1*

of servicing the loan. That's why they [USDA] are not guaranteeing the loan. And this is a loan guarantee program," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview Friday.

CUC and lawmakers previously said it was CUC and the Office of the Attorney General that decided to back out of the $10-million loan.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities and Infrastructure, is now asking CUC to give back to its customers an estimated $1 million that he believes the corporation started collecting from customers in July 2011 to help repay the planned $10 million loan that didn't materialize.

"CUC should give back the estimated $1 million they collected since May or June 2011, whether in the form of offsetting their utility bills or refund. They have been collecting that supposedly to help pay for the $10 million but that loan is not moving forward anymore," Dela Cruz said.

The PUIC Committee called on CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher to attend a July 12 meeting to discuss the cancellation of the $10 million loan and additional collection from CUC customers since last year to help pay the supposed loan.

Dela Cruz's committee listed eight sets of issues about CUC that they want to discuss, which also include CUC's cash flow and operational status; the status of its alternative energy sources and their cost to CUC per kilowatt hour, as well as the companies that will be awarded contracts; update on two stipulated orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; status of Power Plant 4 on Saipan and the power plant on Tinian; and status of the request for proposal for trouble calls as well as payment branches to be held by IP&E.

"Please be prepared to answer questions regarding the above issues and to address other concerns that the other members in the committee may have," Dela Cruz told Fletcher.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, earlier said that CUC could no longer afford to enter into a $10-million loan and pay a monthly rate of $110,000, and this was coming from CUC officials that met with the panel.

Ayuyu and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said CUC should also be mindful of the consequences of not addressing CUC's stipulated order requirements as it could end up facing stiff fines from EPA.

CUC was supposed to use the $10 million loan to meet federal requirements under the U.S. District Court and EPA stipulated orders.

CUC had said the $10-million loan will be used to fund 27 projects and initiatives that will result in more dependable and reliable power, water, and wastewater supply in the CNMI. Some $3.859 million of it will be used to build the infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling, and transfer at power plants.

# CHC's OB-gyne section running with just one doctor

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's Obstetrics and Gynecology section is right now operating with only one physician following the departure of Dr. Michael Deary in March this year.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the ongoing shortage of physicians, particularly at the OB-gynecology section of the public hospital.

Since Deary's exit early this year, Dr. Jennifer Linden is the sole physician handling all emergency caesarians, excessive bleeding, gynecology surgery, and others at the hospital, he said.

Obstetrics and gynecology are two surgical-medical specialties dealing with the female reproductive organs in their pregnant and non-pregnant states.

Babauta admitted that Deary's departure created a critical void that he intends to solve by hiring either full-time or short-term physicians at the soonest possible time.

Deary quit his post due to frustrations over many issues at the hospital, including the lack of funding support from the Legislature and the government.

Babauta assured that despite having only one physician at the OB-gyne section, Dr. Linden receives strong support and assistance from other medical practitioners, including highly qualified physician assistants, registered nurses, and midwives.

Sources have told *Saipan Tribune* that CHC may also end up losing its sole physician at the unit. These sources pointed out that not having OB-gyne coverage is unacceptable for a hospital like the size of CHC as it would likely result in many maternal and fetal deaths.

According to Babauta, Dr. Linden has been working at CHC around the clock. Although he is not aware of any plans by Linden to quit, he said he wants the doctor to stay.

He said that Dr. Jeremy Richards, the Medical Affairs director, is putting together a plan on how to cover any shortfall in key areas such as the OB-gyne section. "We do have plans being put together and our DMA has been on top of this shortage at OB-gyne. Certainly, we don't want to leave that unit without coverage," he said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the OB-gyne section also needs experienced labor and delivery nurses. Particularly lacking is the expertise in fetal monitoring interpretation and maternal assessments, which has been going on for several years now.

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# Health corp.'s utility bill jumps to nearly $500K in June

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s utility consumption more than doubled last month, taking many of its officials by surprise and prompting calls for clarification from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CUC billed the health corporation $491,000 for its June consumption alone, an amount that corporation chief financial officer Alvaro Santos described as "too high" when compared to usage in previous months, which averaged over $200,000 up to $300,000 monthly.

Santos said he will seek an explanation and clarification from CUC on how the "excessive" billing was reached. A breakdown of all the items under the billing will also be verified before any payment is made.

"We will verify how accurate their billing [statement] because $491,000 is a lot. It shows a big jump from previous months' consumption. We normally average less than that and we need to find out what happened. We need an explanation," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to him, the corporation it is trying its best to settle its outstanding debts despite its financial struggles. For the months of March and April, Santos said the corporation paid CUC $216,000. He acknowledged that a huge amount is still owed CUC, representing arrears in previous years.

The healthcare corporation, the former Department of Public Health, is among the three biggest customers of CUC. The other two are public schools and the central government itself.

Based on CUC records, these three customers have arrears totaling $9.2 million as of May 31. PSS owes the highest amount, $3.8 million, while the public hospital owes $3 million. The central government, which includes its instrumentalities, owes CUC $2.5 million during the same period.

CUC is a nonprofit organization whose operation relies heavily on the payment of power, water, and wastewater consumers. The agency remains under a state of emergency.

# Creditors committee does not object to Fund's selling of San Vicente land

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors does not object to the NMI Retirement Fund's request for authority from the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to approve the sale of the Fund's 886-square-meter property in San Vicente for $125,000.

Don Jeffrey Gelber, the Hawaii-based counsel for the committee, informed the Bankruptcy Court Friday that they have no objection to the property's sale.

Gelber did not cite any reason why the committee does not object to the request.

Except for Florida-based lawyer Mary Flanagan, no other party has questioned the Fund's request to approve the sale.

Attorney Jeremy B. Coffey, the Fund's Boston-based counsel, told the court last month that the Fund believes that selling the property is in the best interest of the estate and its creditors because the sale proceeds will increase the estate's cash assets to the benefit of all creditors, and divest a non-core asset.

Coffey said the purchase agreement provides that the Fund has agreed to sell the property to James H. Arriola for $125,000. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

◀ Happy birthday to Grampa Rick Kaipat, who is celebrating his special day today, July 9! May your day be filled with much more blessings as you become one with Merslyn Santos! Mr. and Mrs. Kaipat, stay loving for all the years to come! We love you, Birthday Man! Love, KaiLani, Franklin, and Ricky Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▲ Happy birthday to our wonderful "Boboy," RJ Cabrera Borja, who is celebrating his birthday today, July 9! May God bless you and hope your special day brings you all that your heart desires! Wishing you a day full of pleasant surprises. Greetings coming out from Mom, Dee'Ana, Nino Stevie, Jenn and Jake, Richelle, Erica, JR III, and your entire friends and families.



▶ Happy, happy birthday to Chris "Charisma" Cabrera, who celebrates his birthday today, July 9! Keep on shining like the inspirational STAR that you were destined and meant to be! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come, and here's hoping that all your birthday dreams and wishes will come true! We love you from infinity and beyond! Greetings coming out from your entire family, friends, former students, and most especially your SATC crew!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◀ Happy 5th birthday to our sister, Aiyana Brileen! We love you very much. Greetings come from Jylon, Ardonn, and Keanalise.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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STOCK # 5C872759
$12,995.00*

2006 Kia Sorento LX 4WD
STOCK # 65602982
$12,995.00*



2004 Honda Accord LX
STOCK # 4A068311
$12,995.00*



2010 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # AE035279
$16,995.00*



2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4
STOCK # 8PA43917
$21,995.00*

2009 Nissan Xterra S
STOCK # 9C509155
$18,995.00*

2008 Mazda RX8
STOCK # 80214167
$16,995.00*

2008 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 8N111101
$18,995.00*

2009 Nissan Altima S
STOCK # 9C188438
$18,995.00*

2009 Nissan Frontier SE 4WD
STOCK # 9C414791
$23,995.00*

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## SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that DPW will be conducting a Public Information Meeting on Saipan for the Federal –Aid Highway Program, Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Year 2012 through 2015. The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The goal of these Public Meetings is to provide citizens with a better understanding of the transportation decision making process, and encourage community participation in addressing current and future transportation needs such as roads, bicycle and pedestrian designated facilities, safety, and maintenance of transportation facilities. The public meetings will take place as follows:

**Saipan – Multi-Purpose Center July 10, 2012 6:00PM**

Advance copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works – Office of the Secretary located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Commercial Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. For more information call 235-9570/5827.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

# Feds look to streamline backlogged immigration courts

By MEGHAN MCCARTHY
CRONKITE NEWS SERVICE

**WASHINGTON**—Government officials have adopted a series of recommendations to streamline federal immigration courts, where a record-high number of backlogged cases has brought the "fairness and effectiveness" of the courts into question.

Changes proposed by the Administrative Conference of the United States are aimed at easing the more than 300,000 pending cases in the courts, where it can take an average of 519 days from introduction to a judge's decision.

"That's almost a year and a half when you're just waiting for your case to be heard," said Funmi Olorunnipa, an attorney adviser at the conference, an independent federal agency that provides nonpartisan legal advice and expertise to government agencies.

The conference worked with the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security for more than a year, looking for ways to make immigration courts more "timely, efficient and fair."

The recommendations ranged from finding more efficient ways for short-handed judges to use their time to doing a better job of informing detainees of their rights in court and letting judges sanction poorly performing attorneys—a power they do not now have.

"Judges sometimes feel like a school master without the ability to suspend or grade a student," said Lenni Benson, a New York Law School professor and one of two outside consultants who worked on the report. "They see bad behavior and are powerless to do anything."

The 37 recommendations were vetted by a selection of federal officials, administrative law experts and private-sector individuals at an ACUS meeting this month. After they are published in the Federal Register, Olorunnipa said, the conference will work with the affected agencies to implement them.

Most of the proposals were aimed at Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review, which was created in 1983 to decide whether foreign-born individuals charged with violating immigration law, should be removed from the U.S. or permitted to stay here.

More than 59 immigration courts nationwide conduct "removal proceedings." Suspected illegal immigrants who are ordered to appear are not provided with an attorney by the government, although they can seek one on their own.

Olorunnipa said that 85 percent of the people who appear before immigration judges do not have an attorney. Many cannot afford to pay for a lawyer or have trouble understanding the procedures because of a language barrier, she said.

"There are some pro bono groups and organizations who will work for free, but those resources are limited," Olorunnipa said.

One major issue is a shortage of judges—one of six positions was vacant in March 2011, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

"What these courts do is really important and Congress has given them a tough mission," Benson said. "We were looking for ways to achieve a lot with the resources they have."

Benson said she and Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution who helped with the report, spent more than a year surveying judges, advocates and government officials looking for ways to improve the process.

Besides recommending that judges be allowed to sanction lawyers, Benson and Wheeler recommended that judges no longer have to be there in person when someone files for asylum. Benson said that could save judges "days and days."

The committee also said that EOIR should "enhance the number and value of know-your-rights presentations" for detained immigrants, saving judges time they would have to spend explaining rights during proceedings, Benson said.

The report said judges should be allowed to address attorneys' "lack of preparation, lack of substantive or procedural knowledge or other conduct that impedes the courts operation" and require some to attend legal education classes.

Benson said some of the changes can take effect immediately while other could take years.

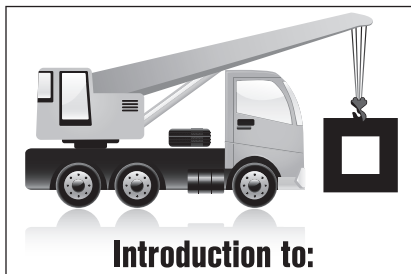
Olorunnipa expects the recommendations to have a "profound impact" on improving the process in immigration courts.

"All the officials involved are very interested in improving the process," she said. "These are things they have been thinking about for a while."

## TAKE A NUMBER

Immigration courts around the country and the number of pending cases in each in fiscal 2012, according the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.
California: 74,948
New York: 46,380
Texas: 34,827
Illinois: 17,384
Florida: 16,943
Arizona: 13,234
New Jersey: 10,807
Massachusetts: 9,268
Virginia: 8,763
Colorado: 7,757
Georgia: 7,242
Washington: 5,910
Tennessee: 5,711
Nebraska: 5,463
Maryland: 5,223
Pennsylvania: 5,085
North Carolina: 4,168
Ohio: 3,771
Missouri: 3,720
Louisiana: 3,495
Nevada: 3,205
Minnesota: 3,160
Oregon: 3,079
Michigan: 2,691
Connecticut: 1,312
Utah: 1,139
Puerto Rico: 525
Hawaii: 193
Guam: 106
The immigration courts in Arizona:
Phoenix: 10,563
Tucson: 1,283
Eloy: 812
Florence: 576

*Distributed by MCT Information Services*

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This project is aimed at training U.S. qualified workers to gain employment, is completely funded by Department of Interior Technical Assistance Grant TA-CNMI-0211-5.

- Do you like to work with your hands?
- Do you like to work outdoors?
- Are you unemployed or looking for change?
- Have you completed the Bridge Project?

Give us TEN hours of your time and attention. 10

We will give you a better chance at gaining employment in the industrial workplace.

Interested parties, please send email to seafixadmin@pticom.com, call 322-0997, or pick up application from at the Seafix Office. Located in the Pacific Trading Building, north of Bank of Hawaii/MH II.



ATTENTION

PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS

FINAL WEEK

Calvary Christian Academy's Closing Out Sale Continues
Monday through Friday
July 9 through July 13
7:30 AM to 3:00 PM Daily
Closed 12:00 to 12:30 each day for lunch

Many, many items still for sale.

- Student Lockers
- Rolling Computer Tables
- Kitchen Equipment and Supplies
- Science Laboratory Furniture, Equipment, and Supplies
- School supplies
- Office supplies
- Teacher supplies
- Bulletin Board material
- BOOKS and supplemental material
- Curriculum and Teacher's editions
- Encyclopedias
- Library books
- Large wooden cabinets
- Water Cooling Dispensers
- Household furniture and supplies
- Brand new boys' pants (navy blue, all sizes)
- Brand new girls' skirts (navy blue, all sizes)
- Office Desk
- Construction Paper

Questions? 234-6026
Located in Chalan Kiya

# Workshops seek to improve emergency communications

The CNMI continues to make progress toward improving its emergency communications capabilities. On July 10 to 11, 2012, the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Homeland Security will hold the 2012 CNMI Statewide Communication Interoperability workshop that will bring together over 30 states and local public safety officials from across the CNMI government agencies, including representatives from the CNMI government, federal agencies, CNMI emergency responders stakeholders, and private partners. The group will meet and further implement the statewide strategic plan known as the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan and improve statewide interoperable communications capabilities.

Emergency communications interoperability refers to the ability of emergency responders—police officers, fire personnel, and emergency medical services—to share vital voice and data information across disciplines and jurisdictions during emergency incidents.

With the support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications, meeting participants will discuss communications interoperability gaps and statewide initiatives to meet those gaps.

Participants will also use the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the CNMI's strategic path forward. CNMI's Office of Homeland Security special adviser Marvin K. Seman and the state's SCIP working group, together with local and public safety officials, will continue to work together in the future to address first responders' interoperable communications.

The CNMI has made significant strides in communications interoperability through such efforts as establishing memoranda of understanding to outline roles and responsibilities of all appropriate agencies with regards to interoperability; procured upgradeable P25 compliant radios for the Department of Public Safety, Tinian and Rota; Moto-Turbo interoperability radios and ongoing Motorola upgrade Astro P25 compliant for Saipan. These initiatives are included in the State's SCIP, which aligns with OEC's National Emergency Communication Plan—a national strategic plan for improving emergency communications capabilities. This alignment ensures the CNMI is tackling interoperable communications consistent with national policies.

"This is important that we take these initiatives, ensuring our first responders across the CNMI and government support agencies have better statewide interoperability," said Jordan Lee I. Kosam, chief of Ports Police and the chairman of CNMI SCIP. " The CNMI SCIP's long-term goal is to have all government agencies [and] private partners be able to talk to one another during incidents or any significant event."

During an emergency response incident, voice and data communications are essential to the success of an operation. Through continued efforts such as these, the CNMI is improving its ability to respond to incidents of all varieties. ***(OHS)***

# Jehovah's Witnesses invite public to attend convention

Jehovah's Witnesses feel that all, including non-Witnesses, will benefit from the positive message and practical suggestions that will be highlighted at the 2012 "Safeguard Your Heart!" District Convention to be held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in Susupe.

The Witnesses' convention program promises a fresh examination of Biblical references to the figurative heart. Through lively discourses, dramatic Bible readings and presentations, and even a live play, program parts will emphasize how protecting the figurative heart will enhance one's spiritual well-being, family life, and happiness.

Starting this weekend, and continuing for the next three weeks, Jehovah's Witnesses will put forth extra effort to extend a personal invitation to everyone from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to attend the convention with them. This three-day event will begin Friday, July 27, 2012, at 9:20am. The daily themes and titles of program parts are based on passages of Scripture, including 1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Chronicles 28:9, and Matthew 12:34. The convention theme "Safeguard Your Heart!" is based on Proverbs 4:23. Strengthening one's spirituality will be the focus of the program.

There is no admission fee. Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses are supported entirely by voluntary donations.

Locally, all of the area's four congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses will be supporting the activity of distributing printed invitations to the convention. An estimated 400 will come to the Marianas High School Gymnasium on this weekend for the Bible-based programs.

Throughout Micronesia, there will be conventions held on nine islands. Worldwide, there are over 7.6 million Witnesses in more than 109,000 congregations. ***(PR)***


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP12-DPS-074**

SUBMISSION: JULY 19, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"ADMINISTRATION, IMPLEMENTATION & FINANCIAL REPORTING OF THE SMART GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JULY 02, 2012** AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDRAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-12-020**

**SUPPLY & DELIVERY PREPAID METERS**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-12-020, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on July 24, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 20, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-12-021**

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER & CUBE ICE**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of bottled drinking water & cube ice for CUC Administration and Operation Division Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-021, Supply & Delivery of Drinking Water & Cube Ice", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 9, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director


# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### July 9, 2001

**Budget cuts threaten other PSS programs**

A significant slash in the Public School System's budget would put not only the kindergarten program under peril but also other essential services offered by PSS, said Education Board Chair Anthony Pellegrino. PSS has asked the government a $59 million budget for Fiscal Year 2002. "We have not made a decision yet about the kindergarten program. We're just looking at scenarios and our options, if we are given an X amount of dollars for the next fiscal year," said Pellegrino last week.

**234 lbs of banned medicine seized**

Customs personnel confiscated 234 pounds of banned pharmaceutical products last month, slightly down from May's seizure of 238 pounds. Pubic Law 11-40 restricts the entry of non-English labeled pharmaceutical products into the Northern Marianas. The Airport Branch of the customs division reported that agents have also confiscated unsealed medicine bottles that are suspected of being tampered.

### July 9, 2002

**Legislature to try breaking three-year jinx on budget**

With less than three months to go before the fiscal year ends, the House of Representatives will reportedly act this week to pass the proposed $213-million spending plan for 2003, as lawmakers attempt to break the three-year jinx hounding the budget. With such a close deadline, however, it would help much to smooth the measure's passage in the Legislature if both chambers meet first in a sort of joint conference this week to iron out any differences. Thus, when the bill goes to the floor of both houses, it will not be hobbled by arguments and unexpected amendments. Senate Vice President Jose Dela Cruz stressed these points yesterday, saying that House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider had told him the other day that the lower chamber is planning to pass the budget at the end of this week, Friday.

**New Senate rules now allow for $5K stipend for Saipan senators**

The newly adopted Official Rules of the Senate has already addressed the concerns that Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero had earlier raised over the $5,0000 monthly stipend of Saipan senators. Guerrero said the new amendments to the rules now allow Saipan senators to draw into that fund for use when attending sessions or public hearings on Tinian or Rota. "At the same time, any Third Senatorial District senator who holds a chairmanship will automatically get $2,000 and if you are a member of other committees, then you are entitled to $1,000 per membership," said Guerrero.

### July 9, 2003

**FY04 budget proposal remains at $213M**

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has informed the Legislature that his April 1 budget submission for Fiscal Year 2004 remains unchanged at $213.953 million. And if the Legislature enacts the proposed tax increases and fee hikes outlined in the administration's proposed Integrated Fiscal Proposal, then next fiscal year's projected revenue would be at the same level it had estimated in its first budget submission-$228.963 million. These were outlined in a July 1 letter the governor sent to legislative leaders, as required by law. For the current year's projected revenue, Babauta said that actual FY03 revenue collections through May-the most recent month for which complete records are available-totaled $133.660 million.

**NMI joins other states in campaign vs lead**

Acting CNMI Attorney General Clyde Lemons yesterday expressed support for a legislative measure that seeks to ban the importation, sale and use of lead pipes and plumbing fixtures for water systems, in consonance with the national campaign against lead poisoning. Lemons also disclosed that the Commonwealth has joined 47 other U.S. states and jurisdictions in reaching an agreement with the National Paint and Coating Association, which would require paint manufacturers to affix warning labels on paint containers. In a recent compliance order issued by the Division of Environmental Quality against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the regulatory agency cited the utility firm for failing to monitor lead and copper tap samples for two consecutive six-month periods from targeted sample sites. These periods were from January 1 to July 1 in both 2001 and 2002.

# Video footage played in Miah, Mirano case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution played in court yesterday footages of audio and video surveillance that showed alleged transactions between Mohammad Jahangir Miah and Earl Eric Mirano, who are being tried on charges of forging stale CNMI tax refund checks and cashing them in grocery stores.

Assistant U.S. attorney Stephen Leon Guerrero said the footages were taken on Feb. 11, March 15, and March 19, 2012.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona allowed the prosecution to first play the footage without captions and then with captions.

The FBI installed audio and video surveillance devices on Mirano after Mirano allegedly voluntarily came forward to report that he had been cashing fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks in grocery stores at Miah's direction.

In the surveillance taken on Feb. 11, the voice of a man that FBI special agent Haejun Park said was Mirano's could be heard talking with Miah at Miah's house. Miah appeared upset with Mirano. Miah told Mirano that he lied to him and ran away from him for a week.

Mirano was begging to Miah to give him another chance as he only needs grocery items as they don't have food.

"I promise I'll make up to you this time," Mirano was heard as saying, among other things.

In the second footage taken on March 15, Mirano was seen promising to pay Miah a total of $210.

Seen in the same room was a woman, whom Park identified as Cecilia Blas, Miah's girlfriend. Miah again appeared upset with Mirano.

In the third footage taken on March 19, Miah noticed a device in Mirano's shirt and asked what it was. Mirano said there was nothing in him, but Miah kept insisting that he give him the device. Mirano said the device was for his phone.

"I need to see that! What's that?" Miah repeatedly asked.

Mirano again explained there was nothing to see as it was only a bluetooth device and that Miah was already harassing him.

Miah replied he'd never seen one like it before.

Blas was also seen in the room. Mirano was seen dialing his phone and talking to somebody.

Park, in his affidavit, stated that in the Feb. 11 meeting, Miah discussed but did not identify his source for the checks. Park said Miah indicated that his source of the checks receives a 50-percent cut of the check value.

Park said that Miah was observed using a laptop computer while he and Mirano discussed the check-cashing scheme.

Park said that in the March 15 meeting, Miah was again observed using a laptop while discussing the check-cashing scheme.

During the March 19 meeting, Park said that Miah frisked Mirano for possible recording equipment and found the recording wires hidden underneath the shirt.

Park said that when Mirano texted him that Miah had found the wires, he instructed Mirano to leave Miah's residence immediately.

Park said he and another special agent proceeded to Miah's residence out of fear of possible destruction of evidence related to the suspect's criminal activity.

The trial will resume on Tuesday.

## 4 beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Smiling Cove Marina, Samoa Housing, Garapan Fishing Dock, and San Antonio Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### WATER TASK FORCE
### IFB12-GOV-087

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs from Tekken St in Susupe to Orchid St. in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after July 9, 2012 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 AM, on July 20, 2012, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.
All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on July 19, 2012.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB12-GOV-087". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 7, 2012, and must be received no later than 2:00 PM August 16, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, August 16, 2012. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on August 7, 2012.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

AIUP ASSOCIATED INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS OF THE PACIFIC, INC.

A CNMI-LICENSED INSURANCE AGENCY and GENERAL AGENT FOR:

PACIFIC INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY

A GUAM BASED, CNMI REGISTERED AND U.S. TREASURY LISTED INSURER

ANNOUNCES

PACIFIC INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY'S

A- (EXCELLENT) RATING

From AM Best & Company of Oldwick New Jersey
May 30, 2012

Contact: ASSOCIATED INSURANCE
Beach Road, Garapan
P.O. Box 501369
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: 670.234.7222/6865/3152
Fax: 670.234.5367
Email: aiup@pticom.com

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Bring back the tasty tomatoes

When chicken farmers switched from using mostly corn feed to other grains, the chickens changed too. Their skin was white instead of yellow. For a while, poultry producers added color to the feed to make the chickens look the way they used to, but when skinless chicken breasts became a popular diet food, customers got used to the sight of white chicken and producers dropped the coloring.

Food shoppers are finicky about the colors of their food, and the agriculture industry races to anticipate their desires. But sometimes the industry moves too fast. One example: tomatoes imbued with the deepest red color but, as a result, little flavor.

For a long time, many shoppers assumed that their tomatoes had less taste because they were grown for higher yield instead of higher quality, or because they were picked while still green to better survive shipping. But then stores started selling vine-ripened tomatoes, including scarlet-hued fruits still clinging quaintly to their vines. It made no difference; they still didn't have much taste. Even growers didn't fully understand what had gone wrong—until creative scientific minds unearthed the genetic cause.

A new study in the journal *Science* reveals that when growers began breeding tomatoes for color, they were unwittingly breeding against flavor. A naturally occurring mutation in tomato plants produced uniformly red fruit when ripe, unlike tomatoes that ripened with marks of green or other colors around the stem. By breeding for that mutation, farmers were producing more visually appealing fruit, unaware that the mutation disabled another gene that prompted the fruit to develop sugar. That's why shoppers have, in the last several years, been willing to shell out major money for deformed-looking heirloom tomatoes that come in funny colors. They taste good.

The tomato, which originated in the Americas and turned up in spaghetti sauce only as a result of early European exploration, represents one of the misadventures of the agricultural industry, which is always looking for products that will lower costs, raise yields, survive severe weather or shipping and still look pretty at the end of the day. Those are understandable—even worthwhile—goals, but farmers might be misreading what consumers most need and desire from their food: abundant nutrition, of course, and deliciousness. We got used to white chickens. We can embrace green-topped tomatoes too.

So dear agriculture industry: We'd like our old tomatoes back. And while you're at it, please dump the peaches that, for all their rosy blush, are as hard as rocks and ripen into uncertain-tasting mush.

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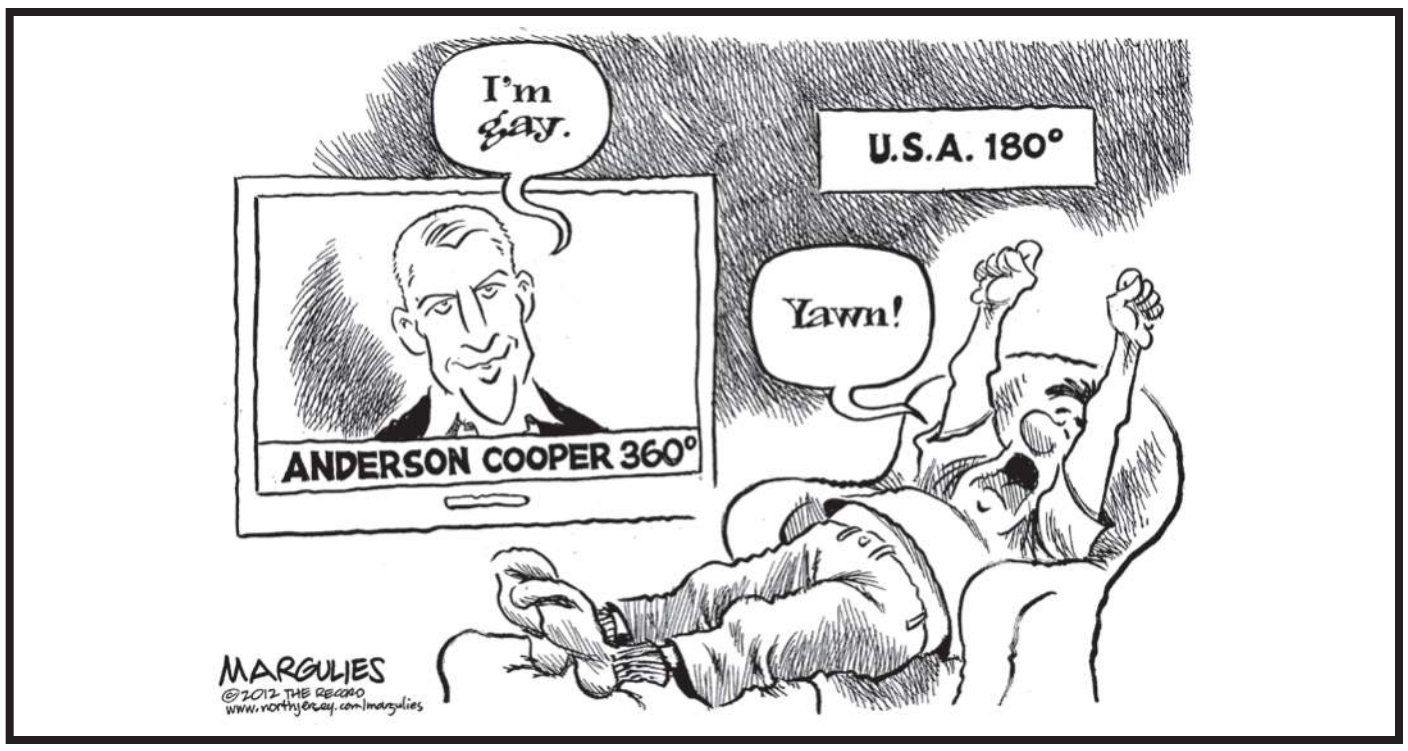



## 'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself'

**By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*

On March 4, 1933, the following inspiring words were spoken by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States, in his first inaugural address when the United States was at the bottom of the Great Depression:

"This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth and boldly. …Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance…

"Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid….Plenty is now at our doorstep. But a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of supply…when there is no vision the people perish….

"The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit. …These dark days will be worth all they cost us if they teach us that our true destiny in not to be ministered unto but to minister to ourselves and to our fellow men…"

From these inspiring words and from the brilliant leadership of President Roosevelt, the United States regained first place as the leading economic force in the world which it still maintains today.

Many people have forgotten that President Roosevelt was himself disabled having suffered infantile paralysis in his left leg that made him partially paralyzed. As a result he had to move around in a wheelchair. With indomitable courage he conquered his personal fears as well as the fears of a nation.

Let us think about the fear mentioned above for a moment. Are we suffering from fear and unable to overcome it and as a result just giving up?

I hurt for all the retirees who are now being told that their dreams for a comfortable retirement have been destroyed. Are they overpowered by fear?

I hurt for all of us who are sick and cannot receive medical treatment because the government cannot pay Medicaid. Are these ill citizens overpowered by fear?

I hurt for the people at the Nutrition Assistance Program office as I see the lines getting longer and more congested. Are these hungry citizens overpowered by fear?

I hurt for the nonresident workers and their plight in trying to get a CW1 card to continue working in the CNMI and not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Are they hopeful in vain and overpowered by fear?

I hurt for our citizens born and raised here who are running away from our islands to seek a better life. Are they overpowered by fear?

I hurt for all the government workers reduced to a 64-hour week. Are they overpowered by fear? I could cite many more examples that beg the question of fear.

Societies before us have been as destitute and as confused as we are now. But somehow they managed to pull themselves out of their dire situations. And so must we! This is not the time for whining!

Correct me if I am wrong but we seem to have lost the will and drive to make things happen. We refuse to make sacrifices. We are acting as an ostrich with its head in the sand, refusing to accept reality. As I see it, the only thing that will happen to the ostrich is that it will be kicked in the rear. Why are we so full of fear of our future?

Actually fear can be a great motivator if we use it properly. Remember, fear can be imagined or real. When we feel that something bad is going to happen, fear alerts us and we become careful.

Fear used properly can be a great stimulator to action. Think of all the great performers, great actors, great athletes and anyone who performs in public. They all feel pangs of fear before their performances but they overcome them and rise to great heights. I hate to tell you how much fear I experience daily about failing and losing everything I have worked hard to acquire.

One of the saddest offshoots of fear that we are experiencing now in our community is the increasing distrust of each other, which is resulting in a divided community. As a result fear is slowly ruining our relationships with each other. But there are cures for overpowering this griping and paralyzing fear. Let's stop the flight and instead fight back. We must create self-belief.

We must roll up our sleeves and go to work. This is the most positive way to help ourselves. We have to stop begging strangers to come here and save us so we don't have to work. Once we reverse our fear into positive actions, investors will flock to our islands.

Do we truly believe that we cannot create our own industries and jobs to make our own money? Have we become such a nation of sycophants begging the U.S. and strangers to help us without even trying to help ourselves first? I welcome all the assistance we can receive but only with us helping ourselves at the same time.

Daily I keep preaching that we are standing in acres of diamonds, but alas we fail to see them. We are close to a huge Asian market of over 3.5 million people. We are closer to a large market in Guam where its people are losing the desire to farm their land. They are fast becoming urbanized.

We are an intelligent people, proud with dignity. We understand the problems. We know the solutions. Why do we let this insidious thing called fear overpower us?

All successful solutions are made up of compromises. Our leaders must sit and discuss with us their plans so that we can cooperate better. They must also sit and talk with the federal government until we reach compromises in which both parties walk away as winners. It must be a win-win situation. We mustn't let fear create confrontations or we will only worsen matters.

Never forget that the United States needs us as much as we need them. If we comprehend how much we need each other, we will realize why the U.S. is forcing federalization upon us. If we play it correctly it can become a trump card.

Recall that the United States signed a Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with us in 1977. Since that time it has poured into the CNMI over $3.8 billion in capital improvement infrastructure funds. At the same time we keep 100 percent of our tax revenues to be used here, never remitting one cent back to the United States. Having the greatest nation in the world as a partner and protector should greatly alleviate any fears we have.

I plead to all our leaders to boldly give us a vision of a new horizon. As President Roosevelt said: "When there is no vision the people perish…

Isn't it time to put aside all the lame excuses why we cannot help

See THE ONLY on **Next Page**

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# In the summer of our sunset

**By JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.*

Indo-Aryans invented human cyclical roles of existence of four phases: the child, youth, adult, and elder. The West designated time segments. When life expectancy was 60, each phase constituted 15 years. Now that it is heading 80, 20 years makes a phase. The role definitions stayed with us to this day in the journey from childhood to adulthood.

Congruent to the 12-beat year cycle of the lunar calendar used in most of Asia (year of the Rooster), and the 12-beat month cycle in the western Zodiac (sign of Leo), with its Greco-Roman days (am a Wednesday child), we pattern our journey accordingly, choosing a 12-beat cycle seven times (7 x 12 = 84) to reach our covenanted 86 years (two additional years' icing on the cake).

Those seven phases are: Childhood (at play), Youth (the poet groping with symbols), Emerging Adult (full societal participation), Adult (the prime of one's capabilities and apex of one's sense of responsibility), Professional Adult (unconditional vocational expenditure), Elder (the quiet adviser), and Sage (the silent wise one).

Our commercial society has latched on to the eternal virtues of youth, and from Qin Shi Huangdi's search for the anti-aging formula to the Hispanic conquistadores' search for the fountain of youth, and now, on science's promise of duplication by cloning, youth as the eternal state from which we do not wish to be delivered from is a continuing pursuit.

It is late afternoon close to dusk in our life, and we listen to Carl Jung's musing: "One cannot live in the afternoon of life according to the program of life's morning; for what was great in the morning will be of little importance in the evening, and what in the morning was true will at evening have become a lie."

Our morning was informed by the European Medieval Ages that lent us a four-phased life journey heavily given Christian ontological designations once taught in seminaries through which we briefly went through. These four phases are: Incarnation, Growth and Maturity, Ministry and Cruciformity, and the Resurrection (typologies ours, not academe).

Let us look at the bookends. Incarnation simply meant there was no mistake to one's existence. The metaphor was "created in the image of God"; the story was the virgin birth of Jesus in a lowly manger. In current scientific perspective, that would be the affirmation that at the moment of our conception, the ovum chooses and the sperms strive to be the winner in the bursting forth into existence; the nine-months following produces extreme creativity with a welcomed sperm cell and the ovum jointly creating a magnum opus.

Resurrection is the meaningfulness and significance of existence decided in the creative tension of free choice and obligation. "Death has no dominion." Freedom does. Life is good, the past finished, the future open, and the here-and-now the tableau on which freedom is exercised. However, the powerful story of the empty tomb has been relegated to the realm of Superman reversing the earth's rotation to avert total disaster and annihilation.

In between, the architectonic works of Augustine celebrating the city of man and the city of God also doomed human genetics to perdition out of a perceived mistake from the Garden of Eden. Incarnation moved to the province of the chosen and the select. Growth and maturity however, kept provisions for anyone to be the saved.

Aquinas equated the city of man to the natural world and gave us the supernatural as the realm where peace and justice prevailed. Ministry became a task of promoting "the kingdom of God" and cruciformity, or the life of service in the lifestyle of the suffering servant, the mode. The saved attained peace and tranquility. They went to Heaven and the lost headed for Hell. We've been stuck in that metaphor ever since.

The package was neat and workable in the cloisters of our imaginations. Except reality does not take too kindly to perverted truths behind walls, and the cosmology of the lab moved from the earth-centered perspective of astrology in alchemy to the wonders of a Big Bang in a 13.7 billion-year-old universe. The perversions that accompanied the use of Judeo-Christian biblical stories in maintaining the Holy Roman Empire were legion, notwithstanding Wesley's social conscience. Pax Amerikana picked up the task of empire and built a worldwide military-industrial complex extending the legionnaire and cleric's rule.

The Breton Woods conference in 1944 gathered 44 nations, creating the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that launched the U. S. path of Pax Amerikana. My existence coincides with the clasp of the eagle's talons on the globe commencing on the tail end of the Potsdam Conference when Truman and the allies decided the terms for Japan's WWII surrender. Coterminous, we will be excused our critical enthusiasm over the spread of the eagle's wings!

We do live in the afternoon of life no longer according to the program of life's morning. What is important in our evening is no longer the ontological musing of the past, most of which have become lies. Nor that of midday when Pax Americana wore Peace Corps volunteers' smiles. The reality and truth of the boot and the drone keep us on our toes, and the finger does the writing!

# Guaguan i gastun hinemlu'

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the* Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Taya mas primera yan likidu na regalu ke hinemlo'ta. Sin este kanaha' tai bali ha'anita. Entre gatdun hit gi gima' diariu 'sino huyuñg yan halom gi hospitat. Kada biahe para i hospitat gastu ni dañkulu ennau kontra i pottan-monedan familia.

I estau hinemlo'ta hita solu rumesponsasable diariu. Kau unna' seha 'sino mueba mona ha'animu, gaige ennau na direchu gi dos patman kanaimu. Hagu solu para un' diside kau un' homlu' pat gai chinatsaga pinadesen diskuidu gi hinemlo'mu.

Sumen makat gi familia i didog na chinatsaga piot ya kritikat 'sino ti amtiyun i chetnot tat kumu destrosiau na sensin korason, lamas higadu, imbeninau haga', matai reñihon, todu klasen kanset ni pumalolo'pu' pagu i natibu.

Hu chage malofan guine na chalan. Makat yan taduñg sabana gi todu birada parehu ha' para i malañgu yan familiamu mismu.

I para un' bira hau tatte gi modun hinemlu', gaige ennau solu na disision gi dos patman kanaimu. Hagu i kapitan batkomu. Esgaihon guatu gi safu na puettu ya un' matagam felis ni familiamu. Chogue este para un' mas metgot yan homlu'.

Mas presisu na tana' guaha inadahe piot sa' mas appenas fondun para medical referral. Kumeke ileghu na mas menus salape' este na programa ya esta ti linañgag ni rinikohen kontribusion tax gi sakan.

■ ■ ■ ■

### Sirasimi' yan Kechap

Lamegai gi man-acha idat-hu chumage sirasimi' yan kechap (Kikkoman Shoyu) gi hilu' maipen hinegsa' antes. Estague' likidu na'yeña guihe na tiempu 'nai pinalopu' i tanu' ha'ilas.

Humuyuñg i Navy ya tinilaika ni Interior. Megai mana' fan basta gi che'chu' niha. Dañkulu na linau yan rimulinu ha poñga gi familia siha.

Ensegidas i mañainata ha bira siha tatte gi gualu' yan offisiun tasi para u sustene mantension familia. Makat na gotpe lau taya' otru manera gi obligason sinistenen familia.

Maribaha lokue' i sueddo deste $.75 papa' esta i $.16 gi ora. Todu kinalamten sumen makat gi tutuhun ayu na tinilaikan administrasion. Sulun linala'ta deste abundansia papa' esta i pisun ha'ilas 'nai sige mañainata man-ensinahyau diariu.

Diberas, tat hogsu' ti in' fedus yan mañeluhu. Tat cha'guan ti in' dimimoria gi entalu' tinanom. Tat chata'an ti in' chage kontodu katma esta pagyun choda.

Ayugue' na mattiru 'nai tat tasi ti in' fatoigue man-peska deste fisga, talaya, tekin yan chenchulu. Tat ti in' apprubecha ginen taduñg na halom tanu ni ha inklusu gadu', dagu, choda, sunin bisaya, kontodu manog hatsadu yan babuen halom tanu'.

Tat hoben ti sumaunau gi che'chu' inaligau mantension famlia diariu. Gi biradan gualu' 'sino sumulu' chatagmag, kada unu yayas ya taya' mas ha diseseha i para u o'mag, sena yan deskansa. Estague kase na sen hasan che'chu babarias guihe na tiempu.

Lokue', man-sattun i mañaina gi finana'guen espirituat. I mas tatkulu' i Misan Noche Buena yan Pasguan Resureksion (kinahulu' Jesukristu gi lañget). Gi entalu ennau, man-machoneg ham prumekura i dottrina. Mas ha lulug fitme na hineñggen sustansian relihion. Gi mismu tiempu, mas ha sede makreansan antau yan adeñganiyun na kinahulu' famaguon.

Lau tai malefaghu sirasimi yan kechap gi lamegai na sentada antes. Guaha 'nai hu chage na tiempu pot kulan hu tañga usun kalulothu gi kalaña yan palagse' hinegsa'.

■ ■ ■ ■

### Tai fondu i kahan Marianas

Klaru na appenas fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. Finañagu chetnut fugu gi Hegsu' i Deni sa' megaiña obligasion makat man-ma'apase. Piot sa' megai bisnis man-mahuchum 'nai ta chuchule' fondun iya Marianas. Mas ha luñu' linala'ta gi tasin miserable ni finalulon ni tai'ase' na tiempun ha'ilas.

Mauleg ta adahe hit kontra seriosu na minalañgu piot sa' ma-utut ayudun medicaid. Estira amanu i siña estrechun kada pesu gi pottanmonedan familia. Yangin ti presisu, punu' todu i guaha na kandet gi halom yan hiyuñg guma kontodu stove yan air-condition. Pot mas ha poñga hit i mattirun ha'ilas pot diskuidun i man-sabiun i hegsu' i Deni na todu pot todu sumen presisu na ta adahe todu kinalamten gastun obligasion familia.

■ ■ ■ ■

Pot Ositan: Ha faisenyu' un' amiguhu kau para bai' fattu 'an dimalasgue'. Hu oppe na huñgan. Ha faisenyu' lokue' kau para bai' fattu yan chenchule'hu. Hu oppe talu, huñgan. Ilegña, "Pues maila' mage chenchule'mu pa'gu sa' ayu un' malefa". Aike pitbetsu. Malefa na parehu ham balakun social security guard pagamientun mame. De dios mihu!

## THE ONLY

*From Page 10*

ourselves and the United States, our benefactor, at the same time?

As President Lincoln stated: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Should we fall, it will be because of internal dissension. It is time to come together. No excuses! No fears! Let's face the sunshine and seek the rainbow. There truly is a pot of gold at its end. Let us overcome our fears and mend our house because the future waits with open arms to prosperity.

I am very optimistic about the future of the CNMI and our people. "The past is a ghost, the future is a dream, and all we ever have is now." How we handle the present—the now—will dictate our future.

May God grant our leaders and us the wisdom to know the difference between what is right and what is wrong and the courage to make the proper decisions so that the future truly brings the prosperity we long for! We can embrace fear and become our worst enemy, or we can embrace optimism and become prosperous and happy again. Which one shall we embrace? Choose!

## Letter to the Editor

# 40-hour workweek

The Fitial/Inos administration has good news. They will try to restore the 40-hour workweek now that election is coming up. Just how long will the 40-hour workweek last? Will it just be until election day or until the day after election day? Maybe the Fitial/Inos administration will also start paying employer contributions to the Retirement Fund until election is over. Maybe they will lower CUC rates for now until the people vote. Maybe Fitial will stop calling the people of Tinian and Rota stupid until the election is over.

Those who are running under Fitial's GOP share the same values as Fitial. They agree so much with his style of governance that they decided to run under his party. This just shows how much they support Fitial. Are they leaders or followers of Fitial? They are followers, not leaders. The incumbents who are running have had three years to prove that they are worth re-electing. That's a term and a half of doing nothing. Do not elect any incumbents unless they have worked hard to improve the CNMI.

**Antonio Aldan**
*Kagman, Saipan*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88 ° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° |

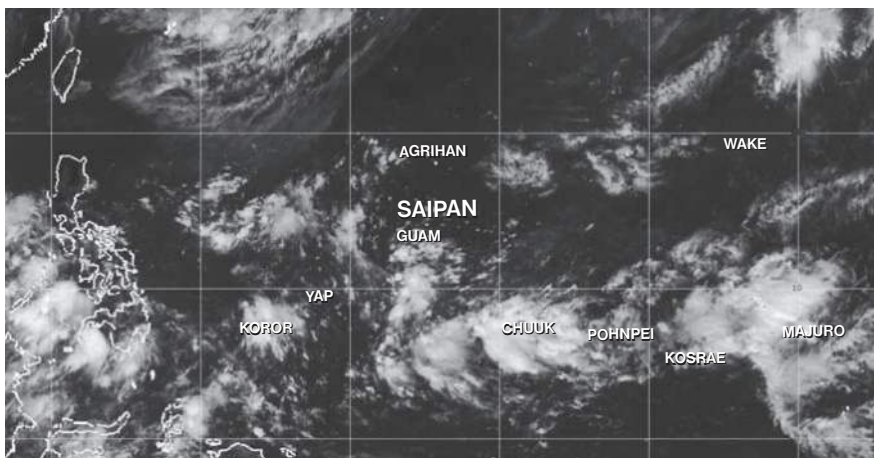
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼80 |
| Palau | Showers | ▲84 | ▼75 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲85 | ▼78 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲87 | ▼81 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Sunny | ▲56 | ▼44 |
| Beijing | Thundershowers | ▲78 | ▼70 |
| Hong Kong | Thundershowers | ▲90 | ▼83 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲83 | ▼73 |
| London | Showers | ▲67 | ▼59 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲78 | ▼64 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲87 | ▼79 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | ▲59 | ▼43 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲90 | ▼71 |
| Osaka | Sunny | ▲84 | ▼70 |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | ▲72 | ▼58 |
| Pusan | Partly Cloudy | ▲78 | ▼69 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲92 | ▼69 |
| Salem | Sunny | ▲89 | ▼60 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲64 | ▼55 |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | ▲87 | ▼70 |
| Tokyo | Thundershowers | ▲80 | ▼69 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲106 | ▼83 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2012**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from Mindanao through 12N130E to end near the northern CNMI at 21N145E. An upper-level trough runs southeastward from near Luzon through 15N130E passing near Koror at 9N135E to end at EQ138E. Converging surface winds south of the surface trough are coupling with upper-level divergence associated with the upper trough to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Koror between 6N and 9N from 133E to 138E and also south of Koror or south of a line from 5N130E to 5N137E. Similar conditions are also found northwest and north of Yap between 13N and 18N from 130E to 141E. Another upper-level trough reaches northeastward from a low centered east of Rota at 14N148E to a second low centered north of Wake Island at 14N169E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the first low south of Guam within 105 miles of a line from 13N145E to 8N144E and also near the second low northeast Wake Island or north of a line from 22N168E to 25N175E. Divergent upper winds south of the second upper-level trough are enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near a trade-wind convergence zone stretching across a large area over Micronesia from south of Guam eastward to the Marshall Islands. This area is within 170 miles of a line from 4N142E to 7N150E to 6N161E to 9N172E. Scattered showers are seen over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls south of a line from 5N168E to 7N179E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12:45 AM | Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |
| 7:11 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.7 Feet |
| 12:14 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet |
| 6:48 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.4 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:53 AM | 6:52 PM |
| Tuesday | 5:53 AM | 6:52 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:53 AM | 6:52 PM |
| Thursday | 5:54 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Friday | 5:54 AM | 6:51 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:55 PM | 10:39 AM |
| Tuesday | 11:34 PM | 11:29 AM |
| Wednesday | | 12:17 PM |
| Thursday | 12:13 AM | 1:06 PM |
| Friday | 12:53 AM | 1:55 PM |

*Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.*

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 7, 2012

### DEPARTURES

**GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5062 | 2:40am | 3:10am | 1, 3, 5 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5070 | 4:35am | 5:25am | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA5068 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA5074 | 11:30am | 12:20pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA5076 | 3:10pm | 4:00pm | Daily |
| UA5078 | 6:50pm | 7:40pm | Daily |
| UA5072 | 9:55pm | 10:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL287 | 6:05am | 8:45am | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:20pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ606 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:30pm | 6:55pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606/701 | 2:20am | 11:05am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:50am | 11:05am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA5070/191 | 4:35am | 9:55am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 | 6:05am | 10:00pm | Daily via NRT |
| UA5076/183 | 3:10pm | 8:45pm | Daily via GUM |
| UA5076/193 | 3:10pm | 10:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ604/703 | 3:30pm | 10:40pm | Daily via ICN |
| UA5072/PR111 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606/721 | 2:20am | 11:50pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:50am | 11:50pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA5076/147 | 3:10pm | 9:45pm | 1, 5 via GUM |
| OZ604/723 | 3:30pm | 10:40pm | Daily via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5062 | 3:40am | 5:40am | 1, 3, 5 via SPN |

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5062 | 3:40am | 4:15am | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5062 | 2:40am | 4:15am | 1, 3, 5 via ROP |
| UA 5069 | 2:45am | 3:35am | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA5071 | 7:10am | 8:00am | Daily |
| UA5073 | 10:05am | 10:55am | Daily |
| UA5075 | 1:45pm | 2:35pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA5077 | 5:25pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| UA5079 | 8:35pm | 9:25pm | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL288 | 8:15pm | 12:50am+1 | Daily |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ603 | 8:50am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ605 | 8:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL172/288 | 7:50am | 12:50am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| UA190/5077 | 10:55am | 6:15pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA190/5079 | 10:55am | 9:25pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| OZ702/605 | 12:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/605 | 12:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/UA5071 | 10:10pm | 8:00am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA192/5071 | 9:45pm | 8:00am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| UA184/5071 | 10:55pm | 8:00am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA184/5071 | 11:25pm | 8:00am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| OZ704/603 | 11:40pm | 2:20pm+1 | Daily via ICN |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ722/605 | 1:10pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| UA180/5071 | 10:35pm | 8:00am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily |
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| **Tinian–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

# Business

# Jobs data force delicate balancing act for Obama

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A third straight month of weak hiring shows the U.S. economy is still struggling three years after the recession officially ended.

U.S. employers added just 80,000 jobs in June, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.2 percent, the Labor Department said Friday.

For the April-June quarter, the economy added an average of 75,000 jobs a month—one-third the pace in the first quarter.

And for the first six months of 2012, employers added an average of 150,000 jobs a month. That's fewer than the 161,000 average for the first half of 2011.

Slow job growth has led consumers to pull back on spending. Many analysts think the economy is growing at a sluggish annual rate of less than 2 percent.

Job creation is the fuel for economic growth. When more people have jobs, more consumers have money to spend—and consumer spending drives about 70 percent of the economy.

Here's what The Associated Press' reporters are finding:

AP

In this June 13, 2012 file photo, job seekers have their resumes reviewed at a job fair expo in Anaheim, Calif.

### OBAMA TREADS CAREFULLY.

Four months before voters pass judgment on his leadership of the economy, President Barack Obama attempted a rhetorical balancing act Friday.

June's slight job growth is a "step in the right direction," Obama said on a bus tour through Ohio and Pennsylvania,

Yet he also acknowledged that the economy must grow faster.

"It's still tough out there," the president conceded.

He said voters must help him break a stalemate in Congress that he says is preventing his administration from boosting hiring.

For Obama's Republican presidential rival, Mitt Romney, the jobs report could provide a point of attack in the dwindling time before Election Day.

And Romney seized on it.

Campaigning in New Hampshire, he called the unemployment rate "unacceptably high" and said Obama must take responsibility for failed policies.

*- Ben Feller, AP White House Correspondent*

### TIME UNTIL ELECTION DWINDLING

Is it too late for Obama to win over voters unhappy with the job market he's presided over?

The election is four months away, and four more job reports will be issued before then. The final one will come four days before Election Day.

At some point—now, or closer to the election—voters' views of Obama's handling of the economy will solidify. And many analysts think four months isn't enough time for the unemployment rate to fall much below its current 8.2 percent.

"Time has run out," says Patrick Sims, director of research at the consulting firm Hamilton Place Strategies.

For the unemployment rate to fall under 8 percent would require an average monthly gain of 219,000 jobs from July through October, according to calculations by Hamilton Place.

Few predict job growth that strong.

### THE ANNUAL SLUMP

The June jobs report confirmed evidence of an unhappy long-term trend: Hiring is slumping for a third straight year.

In each of the past three years, hopes for a job-market recovery were lifted by robust gains early in the year. But in each case, those hopes fizzled as hiring slowed by spring or summer.

June marked a third straight month of weak hiring—an average of 75,000 jobs for the second quarter of 2012. That's far too few to lower the unemployment rate.

The 2011 job slump lasted from May through August. Over that period, the average monthly job gain was 80,000.

In 2010, the slowdown, from June through September, consisted of four straight months of job losses. The average loss was 76,000.

Over time, the economy would need to add about 150,000 jobs a month to drive down the unemployment rate.

### SOURNESS ON WALL STREET

Stock investors gave a collective thumbs-down.

The market opened sharply lower after the jobs report was issued. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 124 points, nearly 1 percent. Other stock indexes also sank.

Money flowed instead into U.S. Treasurys, which investors perceive as safer than stocks when the economy is weakening. Never mind that you get almost nothing in return for lending money to the federal government these days. The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 1.54 percent, from 1.59 percent on Thursday.

### THE LOST JOBS

Five million jobs.

That's how many the economy has still failed to recover since the Great Recession officially ended three years ago.

The nation lost nearly 8.8 million jobs between January 2008 and February 2010. Since then, it's regained more than 3.8 million—less than 44 percent.

The economy has added just 137,000 jobs a month since employment hit bottom. At that pace, it would take three more years for employment to return to where it was in January 2008.

*- Paul Wiseman, AP Economics Writer*

# The tax man cometh to police you on health care

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Supreme Court's decision to uphold most of President Barack Obama's health care law will come home to roost for most taxpayers in about 2 1/2 years, when they'll have to start providing proof on their tax returns that they have health insurance.

That scenario puts the Internal Revenue Service at the center of the debate, renewing questions about whether the agency is capable of policing the health care decisions of millions of people in the United States while also collecting the taxes needed to run the federal government.

Under the law, the IRS will provide tax breaks and incentives to help pay for health insurance and impose penalties on some people who don't buy coverage and on some businesses that don't offer it to employees.

The changes will require new regulations, forms and publications, new computer programs and a big new outreach program to explain it all to taxpayers and tax professionals. Businesses that don't claim an exemption will have to prove they offer health insurance to employees.

The health care law "includes the largest set of tax law changes in more than 20 years," according to the Treasury inspector general who oversees the IRS. The agency will have to hire thousands of workers to manage it, requiring significant budget increases that already are being targeted by congressional Republicans determined to dismantle the president's signature initiative.

"Knowing the complexity of the health law, there's no question that the IRS is going to struggle with this," said Rep. Charles Boustany Jr., R-La., chairman of the House Ways and Means oversight subcommittee. "The IRS wants more resources. Well, we need to start digging down into what are they doing with the resources and personnel."

Treasury spokeswoman Sabrina Siddiqui said, "The overwhelming majority of funds used by the agency to implement the Affordable Care Act go to administer the premium tax credits, which will be a tax cut averaging about $4,000 for more than 20 million middle-class people and families."

# More mega projects turning to private investors

**CHICAGO** (AP)—For cities and states buried under mountains of debt, it has become a tantalizing proposition: invite private financial institutions to put up the money to fix aging schools, dilapidated rail lines and beat-up roads. Offer investors steady returns on the projects. And give the public the modern services its governments can no longer afford.

Across the country, innovative deals are now being discussed that would put essential pieces of public infrastructure in the hands of global investment firms, the latest effort to cope with a lingering fiscal crisis that has left some communities unable to pay for their needs. Chicago, with a budget deficit of more than $600 million, is planning a private fund that would make 100 public buildings energy efficient, then move on other projects. In other parts of the country, major road construction has been funded using the model.

"We absolutely have to look at other ways" to pay for infrastructure, said Shirley Ybarra, a former Virginia transportation secretary who wrote model legislation used in 32 states for public-private transportation partnerships. "There's only so much bonding you can do ... Roads have to compete with higher education, school bonds, water and all the rest of that stuff."

But as more cities consider packaging needs as prime business opportunities, questions are growing about how well the profit motive fits with the ideal of serving communities. Some officials worry about yielding control to private interests that can raise fees and decide which neighborhoods to serve based on profitability.

"They're looking for a revenue stream for their shareholders, not for the taxpayers," complained Chicago City Council member Scott Waguespack, who criticized the city's proposal.

# Yahoo, Facebook strike patent truce, ad alliance

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Facebook and Yahoo have agreed to settle a months-long patent dispute, averting a potentially expensive battle over the technology running two of the Internet's most popular destinations.

In dropping the lawsuits, the companies agreed to license their patents to each other and form an advertising and content-sharing alliance that expands their existing partnership. Friday's settlement involves no exchange of money.

Now that the antagonism is dissolving into an accord that could benefit both companies, the hundreds of millions of Web surfers who use both Yahoo and Facebook should find even more common ground on the two services..

The advertising alliance could help Yahoo recover some of the revenue that it has been losing as marketers shift more of their spending to a larger and more engaged audience on Facebook's online social network. Facebook, in turn, gains the opportunity to show the ads tailored to fit the individual interests of its 900 million users in other heavily trafficked areas besides its own website.

The truce ends a conflict provoked by Yahoo's short-lived CEO, Scott Thompson, who was dumped from the job two months ago after misinformation on his official biography raised questions about his integrity.

Under Thompson, Yahoo filed the patent lawsuit in March, wielding it as a weapon against a company that Thompson believed had been prospering from the ideas of its older rival. The complaint alleged that Facebook infringed on 10 Yahoo patents covering Internet advertising, privacy controls and social networks. Yahoo Inc. later added two more patents to the lawsuit.

AP

This combination of 2012 file photos shows the logos of Yahoo, left, and Facebook, outside their offices in Santa Clara, Calif. and Menlo Park, Calif.

# Nation

# Unrelenting heat wave bakes half the US; 30 dead

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Americans dipped into the water, went to the movies and rode the subway just to be in air conditioning Saturday for relief from unrelenting heat that has killed 30 people across half the country.

The heat sent temperatures soaring over 100 degrees in several cities, including a record 105 in Washington, St. Louis (106), and Indianapolis (104), buckled highways and derailed a Washington-area train even as another round of summer storms threatened.

If people ventured outside to do anything, they did it early. But even then, the heat was stifling.

"It was baking on the 18th green," said golfer Zeb Rogerson, who teed off at 6 a.m. at an Alexandria, Va., golf course but was sweltering by the end of his round.

The heat sent temperatures soaring in more than 20 states to 105 in Louisville, Ky., 101 in Philadelphia, and 95 in New York; besides Washington, a record of 104 was set in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Baltimore set a record at 102.

At least 30 deaths were blamed on the heat, including nine in Maryland and 10 in Chicago, mostly among the elderly. Three elderly people found dead in their houses in Ohio had heart disease, but died of high temperatures in homes lacking power because of recent outages, officials said. Heat was also cited as a factor in three deaths in Wisconsin, two in Tennessee and three in Pennsylvania.

Officials said the heat caused highways to buckle in Illinois and Wisconsin. In Maryland, investigators said heat likely caused rails to kink and led a green line Metro train to partially derail in Prince George's County on Friday afternoon. No one was injured, and 55 passengers were safely evacuated.

AP

Kevin Sanabria, 10, plays in a small waterfall in Trenton, N.J., Saturday, July, 7, 2012.

Thousands of mid-Atlantic residents remained without power more than a week after deadly summer storms and extreme heat struck the area, including 120,000 in West Virginia and some 8,000 in the suburbs around Baltimore and Washington, D.C. In the Washington area, Pepco asked customers to conserve power, saying the heat was stressing the system.

"This is becoming a black swan of heat waves, in the sense that it's such a long heat wave, such a severe heat wave and encompassing such a large area," said Chris Vaccaro, spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

At the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Abraham Lewis and his wife, Dzifa Fianoo of Lorton, Va., brought their 8-week-old son out for a walk in the 100-degree heat.

"I really don't want to be out, but she's a new mother and was feeling cooped up," Lewis said. "Do you see how hot it is?" he said, wiping beads of sweat from his forehead more than once.

The couple's home in northern Virginia lost power for two days last week after a severe wind storm swept through. Fianoo had to haul the family's food to a cousin's house to prevent it from spoiling, then took it home again.

Micah Straight, 36, brought his three daughters to dance in jets of water spurting from a "sprayground" near Philadelphia's Logan Square fountain to cool off.

"We got here early, because I don't think we'll be out this afternoon—we'll be in the air conditioning," he said. "So I wanted to get them out, get some sunshine, get tired."

In South Bend, Ind., serious kayakers Saturday took to the East Race Waterway, a 1,900-foot long manmade whitewater course near downtown.

"A lot of times I'll roll over just to cool off," said Robert Henry of Carmel, just north of Indianapolis. "The biggest challenge is walking coming back up carrying a kayak three-eighths of a mile in this heat."

In Manhattan, customers who stepped in to see "Jiro Dreams of Sushi" at an IFC movie theater were there for more than entertainment.

"Of course we came to cool off!" said John Villanova, a writer who was on his second sweaty T-shirt of the day—expecting to change again by evening.

He said that earlier, he rode a Manhattan subway back and forth for a half an hour, with no destination in mind, "because it really keeps you cool."

In cities around the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic region, people struggled to find ways to cope with the heat, but at least one such effort ended in tragedy.

In Aurora, Ill., Gene Autry Pryor, 52, had been drinking with three adult friends near Veterans Memorial Island and jumped into the Fox River to cool off, police said. The man's friends lost sight of him after a few minutes and then spotted him floating face down and pulled him to shore. Pryor died Friday evening.

One man figured out a way to beat the heat: stay in the car. Roger Sinclair of Batavia, Ill., was headed home Saturday from Detroit, where he'd spent a few days visiting an old friend and catching Friday night's Tigers game. The Tigers won 4-2, but the conditions were less than ideal.

"It was 97 at the first pitch and still in the 80s at the time of the last out," he said. "It was tough. There was no breeze."

Sinclair said he had been spending hours in his air-conditioned car to stay out the worst of the heat.

In Chicago, street magician Jeremy Pitt-Payne said he has been working throughout the three-day stretch of triple-digit temperatures, but acknowledged that he might doff the Union Jack leather vest by the end of the day, even though it's part of his British magician character along with the black top hat.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Boy killed by falling tombstone was helping dad

A 4-year-old Utah boy was helping his father by trying to make other children smile for a picture when a 6-foot-tall tombstone that weighed hundreds of pounds fell on the boy and killed him at a historic cemetery, family members and friends said. Carson Dean Cheney was with his family in the resort town of Park City on Thursday evening when the headstone toppled onto him after some metal connecting it to its pedestal broke, his grandmother Geri Gibbs told The Associated Press. A funeral for the boy is set for Tuesday. Morley said a memorial fund has been established at Zions Bank. ***(AP)***

### 2 dead in crane collapse on UT-Dallas campus

**RICHARDSON, Texas** (AP)—A crane collapse on the University of Texas at Dallas campus killed two construction workers Saturday, officials said, leaving a mangled chunk of the crane laying atop an unfinished building where workers were heard screaming as the accident unfolded. The crane collapsed while being dismantled, the university said in a statement posted on its website. There were no immediate reports of other injuries.

### Congressman marries longtime partner

**NEWTON, Mass.** (AP)—U.S. Rep. Barney Frank has tied the knot with his longtime partner in a ceremony officiated by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick. Frank spokesman Harry Gural says the 72-year-old congressman married 42-year-old Jim Ready in a Saturday evening wedding at the Boston Marriott hotel in Newton. Gural says more than 300 friends, family and colleagues attended. Frank, a Democrat who is retiring after more than three decades in office, represents the 4th Congressional District in southeastern Massachusetts. Ready, of Ogunquit, Maine, has a small business doing custom awnings, carpentry, painting, welding and other general handyman services. He's also a photographer.

## Lucky baby golden eagle survives Utah wildfire

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—A baby golden eagle is recovering at a wildlife rehabilitation facility after officials say it miraculously survived a Utah wildfire last month.

Kent Keller told The Salt Lake Tribune he feared the worst when he returned to the nest site west of Utah Lake to retrieve a leg band he had attached to the male eaglet June 1.

But the veteran Utah Division of Wildlife Resources volunteer found the burned bird alive on June 28 behind a charred tree, about 25 feet below the nest that was burned to a crisp in the 5,500-acre Dump Fire near Saratoga Springs.

"I thought there was no chance he would be alive. I was stunned when I saw him standing there," Keller said. "I thought maybe I could rebuild the nest a little bit, but I took a good look at him and realized that was not going to happen."

The 70-day-old eaglet had suffered burns on his talons, beak, head and wings. His flight feathers were melted down to within an inch or two of his wing and tail. He's very underweight at just over five pounds.

AP

This Friday, July 6, 2012, photo, shows a 70-day-old golden eagle in Ogden, Utah, that was feared lost but found burned alive on June 28 behind a charred tree, about 25 feet below the nest that was burned to a crisp in the 5,500-acre Dump Fire near Saratoga Springs.

Keller realized the eagle would not fly for at least a year and that the parents eventually would stop providing food. Not a stick from the nest was left after the fire sparked by target shooters swept through

"I've seen nests burn before, but this is the first year I have seen one burn with young in it," he told the Tribune. "They are usually long gone and flying when fire season starts."

After permission was secured from state and federal wildlife agencies, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah in Ogden assumed care of the eaglet this week.

"I wasn't sure he was going to make it," said DaLyn Erickson, executive director of the center. "He kind of had that look like he may have given up."

But the eagle named Phoenix has since taken to eating beef heart and venison. He's treated several times a day for his burns and seems to be gaining strength.

"He looks good now," said Amber Hansen, a member of the center's board of directors. "But we think if he had been there (at the nest site) another day, he probably would not have survived."

What seems to have saved his life during the fire was the insulation offered by his down feathers and once-thick body, according to the wildlife rehabilitation center.

# Asia

## Japan's government eyes buying disputed islands

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's leader says that his government is negotiating to buy islands in the East China Sea that are at the center of a territorial dispute with China, a move that could elevate tensions between the Asian powerhouses.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told reporters Saturday that he's considering nationalizing part of the islands to strengthen Japan's control over them amid China's increasing territorial claims in the region.

Surrounded by rich fishing grounds, the uninhabited islands called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese are claimed by China, Japan and Taiwan and are a frequent flash point in diplomatic relations.

AP

In this Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011 file photo, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's P-3C Orion surveillance plane flies over the disputed islands in the East China Sea, called the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

Noda said Japan effectively controls the islands that are "undisputedly part of Japan's inherent territory by historical evidence and international law." But he acknowledged trying to purchase the islands from a private Japanese citizen, whom Japan says has legal ownership, as an option to strengthen their defense.

"We are talking to the owner as we make a comprehensive study of how we can maintain control over the islands peacefully and stably," Noda told reporters during his visit to the disaster-hit northern Japan.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin reiterated Beijing's position that the islands are Chinese territory. "China's holy territory simply cannot be allowed to be bought or sold by any person," Liu said in a statement.

Liu said the Chinese government would continue to take necessary measures to "resolutely safeguard the sovereign rights of the Diaoyu Islands and adjacent islets," according to the statement posted on the ministry's website.

Japan says it leased out the five main islands for free over 100 years ago, and that four of them have since been sold to private owners, with the fifth remaining state property. The government pays rent on the four privately-owned islands to keep them from being sold to any questionable buyer. It pays 24.5 million yen ($304,000) a year to a private Japanese citizen whom Japan says has legal ownership for three islands, which are unused, according to the parliamentary records. The fourth island, whose rent is not disclosed, is used by the U.S. military for drills.

Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara revealed in April that he was in purchase talks with the owner of the three islands, saying his move was largely intended to put pressure on the government to play a bigger role in the islands' administration. He said he plans to use public funds to buy several islands.

Tokyo has already received more than 1.3 billion yen ($16.3 million) in donations for the purchase, which is expected to cost between 2 and 3 billion yen.

## Filipino rebels free 3 abducted mining employees

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Communist guerrillas have freed a gold mining company officer and two other employees after two days of captivity in the southern Philippines, officials said Sunday. A rebel spokesman said they had been questioning the three about company weapons.

The three, who included the company owner's son, were released unharmed late Saturday by the New People's Army rebels outside Rosario town in Agusan del Sur province, said regional army spokesman Maj. Eugene Osias. Army troops suspended a manhunt to allow officials to safely negotiate the hostages' release, he said.

About 30 guerrillas attacked the VTO mining firm Thursday, abducting the three and seizing at least 17 rifles, shotguns and pistols, Osias said.

Rebel spokesman Jorge Madlos said they suspected the mining firm had a stockpile of weapons. The rebels have asked mining companies not to keep lots of weapons that they say could be used by security men to commit human rights abuses and harass villagers.

The guerrillas did not plan to abduct the three, Madlos said. The rebels were asking the employees about the alleged cache of weapons when they were told that army troops had been seen nearby, prompting them to take the three to a rebel encampment to continue the questioning.

The New People's Army, which is listed by Washington as a terrorist group, has intensified attacks on mining companies and banana plantations in the south in recent years, accusing them of exploiting the country's resources and workers. The rebels are estimated to number slightly more than 4,000.

In one of their biggest attacks in years, more than 200 guerrillas stormed three sprawling nickel mining compounds last October in southern Surigao del Norte province, briefly holding company staff and burning offices, heavy equipment and several trucks. Government forces have strengthened security at the mines.

The rural-based Marxist rebellion has raged for 43 years and is one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies.

## Afghan donors meet, offer $16B in development aid

**TOKYO** (AP)—International donors pledged Sunday $16 billion in badly needed development aid for Afghanistan over the next four years when most foreign troops will leave as Afghan President Hamid Karzai urged the international community not to abandon his country.

The major donors' conference, attended by about 70 countries and organizations, is aimed at setting aid levels for the crucial period through and beyond 2014, when most NATO-led foreign combat troops will leave and the war-torn country will assume responsibility for most of its own security.

"I request Afghanistan's friends and partners to reassure the Afghan people that you will be with us," Karzai said in his opening statement.

Japanese foreign minister and U.S. officials traveling with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the donors have made $16 billion available through 2015, which would be in line with the nearly $4 billion per year that the Japanese co-hosts had said they were hoping to achieve during the one-day conference.

Japan, the second-largest donor, says it will provide up to $3 billion through 2016, and Germany has announced it will keep its contribution to rebuilding and development at its current level of $536 million a year, at least until 2016.

But the donors are also expected to set up review and monitoring measures to assure the aid is used for development and not wasted by corruption or mismanagement, which has been a major hurdle in putting aid projects into practice.

"We have to face harsh realities filled with difficulties,'" said Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda.

Afghanistan has received nearly $60 billion in civilian aid since 2002. The World Bank says foreign aid makes up nearly the equivalent of the country's gross domestic product.

Foreign aid in the decade since the U.S. invasion in 2001 has led to better education and health care, with nearly 8 million children, including 3 million girls, enrolled in schools. That compares with 1 million children more than a decade ago, when girls were banned from school under the Taliban.

Improved health facilities have halved child mortality and expanded basic health services to nearly 60 percent of Afghanistan population of more than 25 million, compared with less than 10 percent in 2001.

But the flow of aid is expected to sharply diminish after international troops withdraw, despite the ongoing threat the country faces from the Taliban and other Islamic militants.

Along with security issues, donors have become wary of widespread corruption and poor project governance. Before the conference, Japanese officials said they were seeking a mechanism to regularly review how the aid money is being spent, and guarantees from Kabul that aid would not be squandered.

The U.S. portion is expected to be in the decade-long annual range of $1 billion to this year's $2.3 billion. Officials declined to outline the future annual U.S. allotments going forward, but the Obama administration has requested a similarly high figure for next year as it draws down American troops and hands over greater authority to Afghan forces.

## 4 Chinese miners rescued after 3 days underground

AP

Liu Yunqing, the first miner rescued, is carried out on a stretcher from the flooded pit of Qielichong colliery in Sandu Township of Leiyang City, central China's Hunan Province, on Sunday, July 8, 2012.

**BEIJING** (AP)—Rescuers on Sunday pulled to safety four of about a dozen miners trapped underground for more than three days in a flooded coal mine pit in central China.

A coal mine safety bureau official in central Hunan province said four miners were lifted to the ground early Sunday in Leiyang city. The rescue of the fourth miner was shown live on state broadcaster CCTV's news channel. Rescuers in orange suits and helmets lifted out the man on a stretcher past an applauding crowd of workers and rescuers.

Sixteen miners were trapped by flooding on Wednesday and 11 of them were confirmed alive on Saturday, said the official who refused to give his name as is customary.

Many of the miners still underground were injured and receiving first aid treatment underground from medical personnel who had entered the pit with stretchers and equipment, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The flood in the coal mine occurred when 40 miners were working underground, and two dozen escaped, Xinhua said.

But managers of the mine failed to report the accident in the required time, causing rescue efforts to be delayed at least 12 hours, the agency reported. Mine managers often do so to buy time and avoid punishment by either rescuing miners themselves or covering up the accident.

The survivors have been sent to hospital while the mine owner, Liu Yaping, is under police custody, Xinhua said.

Mine floods usually occur when miners drill through to an abandoned shaft that has been allowed to fill with water. Along with gas explosions and cave-ins, they make China's coal mines the world's deadliest, although the death rate has fallen.

Safety improvements have cut annual fatalities by about one-third from a high of 6,995 in 2002. That improvement has come despite a tripling in the output of coal that generates most of China's electrical power.

Technological advances, better training and the closing of the most dangerous, small-scale mining operations have also made rescues more successful, even after several days.

In April 2010, 115 miners were pulled from a flooded mine in the northern province of Shanxi after more than a week underground. The miners survived by eating sawdust, tree bark, paper and even coal. Some strapped themselves to the walls of the shafts with their belts to avoid drowning while they slept.

# World

# 103 dead in southern Russia floods

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Intense flooding in the Black Sea region of southern Russia killed 103 people after torrential rains dropped nearly a foot of water, forcing many to scramble out of their beds for refuge in trees and on roofs, officials said Saturday.

Many people were asleep when the flooding hit overnight in the Krasnodar region, and the water rushed into the area around the hard-hit town of Krimsk with such speed and volume that rumors emerged that local officials had opened a nearby water reservoir. Muddy water coursed through streets and homes, in some cases high enough to flow over the hoods of cars and even as high as rooftops, according to witnesses.

People waded through waist-high water or maneuvered the streets in boats on Saturday. About 5,000 residences were flooded, the Krasnodar governor was quoted as telling the Interfax news agency.

"Nobody remembers such a flood in all (of the area's) history," Alexander Tkachev said.

The Interior Ministry gave the death toll as 103 on Saturday evening, according to Russian news agencies; a regional ministry spokesman said earlier that at least 67 of the deaths were around Krimsk, about 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) south of Moscow. Five people were electrocuted in the Black Sea coastal city of Gelendzhik after a transformer fell into the water, state news agency RIA Novosti said.

AP

People walk in a muddy street after flooding in the Black Sea resort of Gelendzhik, southern Russia, Saturday, July 7, 2012.

Anna Kovalevskaya, whose parents live in the flooded area, described water inundating their home up to the roof.

"In the town, people are saying that a reservoir in the mountains above was opened," she told the Moscow-based radio station Russian News Service. "A wave came from there. There was seven meters (22 feet) of water in the town."

Tkachev reacted angrily to the speculation, saying on his Twitter account: "Stop spreading stupid rumors ... Now is the time to get through things together, not mock."

President Vladimir Putin flew to the region Saturday evening, viewing the damage from a helicopter. He will also meet with regional officials in Krimsk.

State news channel Rossiya 24 showed video of area residents rescuing people in small, inflatable boats and others slogging glumly through flooded homes.

"It came so fast!" exclaimed one woman, whose name was not given, waving an arm in frustration at the shin-deep water in her living room, where a large teddy bear sat on a sofa.

More than 28 centimeters (11 inches) of rain had fallen in Gelendzhik since the previous evening, the state meteorological service said.

Gelendzhik is on the Black Sea coast, and along with the area around it, is a popular summer vacation spot, including many children's camps. Vice-premier Olga Golodets told RIA Novosti that some 7,100 children were at holiday camps in the area, and that 459 children had to be evacuated.

The area also includes Novorossiisk, a major Black Sea port. The Transneft oil company said Saturday it has suspended loading oil onto tankers at the port because of the severe weather.

More than 1,500 Emergency Ministry officials were working to aid flood victims and clean up the damage, state TV said.

# Libyans hold 1st nationwide vote in decades

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Jubilant Libyans chose a new parliament Saturday in their first nationwide vote in decades, but violence and protests in the restive east underscored the challenges ahead as the oil-rich North African nation struggles to restore stability after last year's ouster of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Women ululated, while men distributed sweets and the elderly with canes or wheelchairs struggled to get to polling centers in a show of joy over the most visible step toward democracy since the eccentric ruler was killed by rebel forces in late October after months of bitter civil war.

"Look at the lines. Everyone came of his and her own free will. I knew this day would come and Gadhafi would not be there forever," said Riyadh al-Alagy, a 50-year-old civil servant in Tripoli. "He left us a nation with a distorted mind, a police state with no institutions. We want to start from zero."

But attacks on polling centers in the east—where anger over perceived domination by rivals in the west is fueling a drive for autonomy—laid bare the rifts threatening to tear the nation apart.

AP

This combo image of three photographs shows Libyan men holding their elections ID at a polling station in Tripoli, Libya, Saturday, July 7, 2012.

Still the election for a 200-seat parliament, which will be tasked with forming a new government, was the latest milestone in a revolution stemming from the Arab Spring revolts that led to the successful ouster of authoritarian leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and later Yemen.

Nearly 2.9 million Libyans, or 80 percent of Libyans eligible to vote, have registered for the election and more than 3,000 candidates have plastered the country with posters and billboards. Electoral officials said turnout was 60 percent and counting of the ballots had begun.

"We are celebrating today and we want the whole world to celebrate with us," Prime Minister Abdurrahim el-Keib said after he cast his ballot in Tripoli.

As they did in Egypt and Tunisia, Islamists also hope to rise to power in Libya where they were long repressed under Gadhafi's secular rule. That would leave conservative religious parties with influence over a large and uninterrupted chunk of territory that stretches from Israel's southern border in Egypt to Tunisia.

One of the main contenders in the race was the Muslim Brotherhood's Justice and Construction party, which has led one of the best organized and most visible campaigns.

Three other parties also expected to perform well were former prime minister Mahmoud Jibril's secular Alliance of National Forces; former jihadist and rebel commander Abdel-Hakim Belhaj's Al-Watan; and the National Front, one of Libya's oldest political groups.

The election lines brought together men, women in black abayas and children accompanying their parents. Many voters waved the Libyan red, green and black flag or wrapped it around their shoulders.

Volunteers distributed sweets to mark the occasion and women hugged each other or sang as they waited in line. Others chanted "the martyrs' blood will not go in vain," a reference to the thousands of anti-regime rebels killed by Gadhafi's forces, or held pictures of loved ones killed in last year's fighting.

U.S. Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, gave the election a clean bill of health during a visit to Tripoli. "Turnout is very high, polls crowded and people are obviously enthusiastic. Overall it is a successful operation," he told reporters.

# UN envoy Annan says Syria efforts failing

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Special U.N. envoy Kofi Annan acknowledged in an interview published Saturday that the international community's efforts to find a political solution to the escalating violence in Syria have failed.

Annan also said that more attention needed to be paid to the role of longtime Syrian ally Iran, and that countries supporting military actors in the conflict were making the situation worse.

"The evidence shows that we have not succeeded," he told the French daily Le Monde.

Annan, the special envoy for the United Nations and the Arab League, is the architect of the most prominent international plan to end the crisis in Syria, which activists say has killed more than 14,000 people since March, 2011.

His six-point plan was to begin with a cease-fire in mid-April between government forces and rebels seeking to topple the regime of President Bashar Assad. But the truce never took hold, and now the almost 300 U.N. observers sent to monitor the cease-fire are confined to their hotels because of the escalating violence.

Activists reported more than 50 people killed on Saturday alone, after some 800 people last week.

Annan defended the unarmed observers, saying it was not their job to stop the violence, but to monitor the sides' adherence to the truce.

He offered few suggestions on how the plan could be salvaged, only saying that Iran "should be part of the solution" and that criticism too often focused on Russia, which has stood by the regime.

"Very few things are said about other countries that send arms and money and weigh on the situation on the ground," he said, without naming any specific countries.

It is unclear what role Annan envisions for Iran, a longtime Syrian longtime ally that has stood by the regime throughout the uprising. Tehran's close ties could make it an interlocutor with the regime, though the U.S. has often refused to let the Islamic Republic attend conferences about the Syria crisis.

Russia provides the Assad regime with most of its weapons. No countries are known to be arming the rebels, though some Gulf Arab states have spoken positively of doing so. The U.S. and other Western nations have sent non-lethal aid, like communications equipment.

The Syrian uprising began in March, 2011, when people first took to the streets to call for political reforms. Since then, the government has waged a brutal crackdown, and many in the opposition have taken up arms, sidelining peaceful activists and changing the conflict into an armed insurgency.

Scores of independent rebel groups now operate in the country, regularly attacking regime bases and convoys.

# Focus

AP

In this Monday, July 2, 2012 an Israeli soldier prays next to the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, in Jerusalem's Old City.

## Israeli draft pits secular Jews vs ultra-Orthodox

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Deep in the heart of Mea Shearim, a Jerusalem bastion of hardline ultra-Orthodox Jews, hundreds of bearded young men in black suits have their noses burrowed into books, immersed in biblical study and oblivious to their surroundings.

They are the creme de la creme of a cloistered community, the Harvard of the ultra-Orthodox world, who are expected neither to work for a living nor serve in the military with other Israelis. But it's not just the students at the prestigious Mir Yeshiva for whom prayer and study of scripture is a full-time job. Nearly the entire community has been granted sweeping exemptions that have infuriated the general public.

These young men, and their sheltered lifestyle, are at the heart of a battle that is tearing Israel apart in a clash between tradition and modernity, religion and democracy. The fight centers on whether ultra-Orthodox males should be drafted into the military along with other Jews, but it really is about a much deeper issue: the place of Judaism in the Jewish state.

The question has come to the fore as the government races to meet a Supreme Court-ordered deadline to revamp the nation's draft law. In its current form, secular males must perform three years of compulsory service when they turn 18. Ultra-Orthodox men, like the young scholars at the Mir Yeshiva, have special exemptions that allow them to continue studying in their isolated enclaves while collecting government subsidies.

For their supporters, seminary students are preserving a tradition that has served as the very bedrock of Judaism for thousands of years.

"Jews need to study the Bible. That is what makes us unique as a people," Yerach Tucker, a 30-year-old spokesman for the ultra-Orthodox community, said proudly as he guided a visitor through the Mir Yeshiva. "It is the essence of our lives."

But polls show the vast majority of Israelis, who risk their lives and put their careers on hold while serving in the military, object strongly to the arrangement, and many see it as the essence of everything that is wrong with their country.

This resentment has fueled a broader high-decibel culture war. In recent months, secular activists have rebelled against what they consider growing religious coercion by the ultra-Orthodox, such as attempts to enforce gender segregation on buses and public places, and a religious backlash by ultra-Orthodox who feel unfairly persecuted.

"It is something so ethical, so basic, that we have all grown up upon: service, giving to the state. Everyone here has to give something to society because we are one society," said Boaz Nol, a reserve officer who was among those planning a massive protest in Tel Aviv against the continued exemptions.

More than 10,000 reservists and their supporters turned out for the rally Saturday night, many of them carrying placards reading "everybody serves."

The Supreme Court earlier this year ruled the draft exemptions illegal and gave the government until Aug. 1 to figure out a new, fairer system. That is proving far more difficult than expected.

Last week, the deep divisions between religious and secular parties inside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government led to the collapse of a special committee formed to draft new legislation.

Netanyahu's largest governing partner, the centrist Kadima Party, is now threatening to quit the government, just two months after joining the coalition with the goal of reforming the draft. Netanyahu has vowed to find a compromise.

Dan Halutz, a former Israeli military chief turned Kadima politician, visited the reservists' protest tent in Tel Aviv Saturday and announced that he was leaving the party.

> We are protecting the country with our prayer. We are making sure that there is something here to protect.

A glimpse into the world of the ultra-Orthodox shows just how intractable the issue has become. The draft exemptions date back to the time of Israel's independence in 1948, when founding father David Ben-Gurion exempted 400 exemplary seminary students to help rebuild great schools of Jewish learning destroyed in the Holocaust, when 6 million Jews were murdered.

As ultra-Orthodox parties became power brokers, the numbers mounted. Ultra-Orthodox officials now estimate there are about 100,000 full-time Torah learners of draft age.

The pattern has lasting ramifications. The heavy emphasis on religious study, begun early on in a separate system of elementary schools, has pushed many ultra-Orthodox men to shun the work world, relying on welfare as they spend their days immersed in holy texts. The ultra-Orthodox make up about 10 percent of Israel's 8 million citizens.

Steep unemployment, believed to hover around 50 percent, coupled with a high birthrate has fueled deep poverty in the ultra-Orthodox sector. With families of eight to 10 children commonplace, more than a quarter of all Israeli first graders today are ultra-Orthodox. Experts say if these trends continue, Israel's long-term economic prospects are in danger.

But changing the ways of the ultra-Orthodox will not be easy. Leaders speak proudly of centuries-old traditions of prayer and learning that they believe has allowed the Jewish people to survive such tragedies as the Spanish Inquisition, European pogroms and the Holocaust. Study in Yeshiva seminaries, they say, is no less important than military strength in protecting the country from modern threats in a hostile region.

"You have to understand, we are part of the Jewish army," said Aharon Grossman, a 30-year-old student at Mir Yeshiva. "Some people serve in tanks. We serve in yeshiva."

Ultra-Orthodox leaders insist they will never be forced to serve in the military.

For decades, a string of secular-led Israeli governments have maintained the status quo, either because of their dependence on ultra-Orthodox political kingmakers or out of fear of an angry backlash from a sector that hasn't hesitated to block roads, clash with police or mobilize tens of thousands of activists into the streets when ordered by their rabbis.

With the clock ticking, Netanyahu now faces a near-impossible task as he tries to satisfy the demands of the secular masses, the Supreme Court and various coalition partners all while preventing sectarian unrest.

Before the parliamentary committee collapse, ultra-Orthodox parties boycotted the panel. And in a sign of what may lie ahead, thousands of black-clad ultra-Orthodox took to the streets of Jerusalem last week to protest the committee's work. Some wore sacks in a sign of mourning over the prospect of being forced into service.

Einat Wilf, a lawmaker with the secular Independence party, said the ultra-Orthodox have no right to complain, adding that Israelis are fed up with a system in which they take and give nothing back in return.

"I, for one, do not believe that their prayers are protecting soldiers and they can't force their ways upon me," she said. "If they want to pray, fine, but not at my expense."

She said that despite ultra-Orthodox intransigence, the doomed committee she was a member of had sought a compromise—even if it was not to the liking of secularists like her.

"Will it be better than the current situation? Yes," she said. "Will it be fair and just? Absolutely not."

A day after Netanyahu disbanded the committee, its chairman nonetheless released his recommendations. Among the proposals: that no more than 20 percent of ultra-Orthodox males, roughly 1,500 people a year, be granted exemptions, while others be permitted to defer service for no more than five years. A national service option was also introduced for those who didn't fit into the military.

The details of the debate have dominated political discussion in Israel, handing Netanyahu his biggest challenge yet since he formed a 94-member coalition in early May. His office says he will meet quietly with political leaders in the coming days in order to formulate a fair draft law.

The ultra-Orthodox reject the idea that they are leeching off the state. They say employment numbers are skewed, and that they contribute to public coffers through sales tax on purchases they make for large families. They also note that the government subsidizes areas that they have no interest in, such as culture, sports and the arts.

Unlike other Israelis, who mark graduations, military promotions, and professional accomplishments, the ultra-Orthodox only celebrate study. Later this month, for instance, thousands of believers are scheduled to pack a basketball arena to mark the completion of a full study of the Talmud—a seven-year odyssey in which 2,700 pages of rabbinical debates over Jewish law are meticulously dissected at a pace of one page a day.

Many ultra-Orthodox sects aren't even Zionist and refuse to recognize Israel as a Jewish state until the coming of the Messiah. Some tiny extreme sects even side with the Palestinians and Israel's archenemy Iran.

Most object to change on much simpler grounds. In Hebrew, the ultra-Orthodox are known as "Haredim," or "those who fear" God. But it's not death they fear in the military—it's immersion in what they see as a secular and hedonistic society.

"The main reason that we can't serve is that the military simply doesn't suit us. The military is a secular melting pot," said Chaim Walder, a well-known ultra-Orthodox author and activist.

It's not clear how much the military even wants Haredi conscripts. While it formally calls for everyone to serve, military officials acknowledge it will be extremely difficult to incorporate them into the army.

Many Haredi men lack basic skills, like rudimentary math, because their independent school systems barely teach them. Their aversion to direct contact with women would require segregation and could undercut the military's record of giving female soldiers equal opportunities.

Insubordination could also grow if ultra-Orthodox men found themselves forced to choose between religious beliefs and commanders' orders. No one can predict what could happen if armed soldiers took their orders from rabbis.

The costs would also be high: Drafting this community would require special arrangements, such as kitchens conforming to the strictest interpretation of Jewish dietary law and a large chunk of the day set aside for bible study. And as those who are married and with children are entitled to higher salaries—the military would face another financial burden.

Inclusion has been successful in some areas however. The army has designed a number of roles specifically for the needs of ultra-Orthodox soldiers, including a segregated infantry unit as well as computer, technology and intelligence units.

A military official involved in the effort said 85 percent of discharged ultra-Orthodox soldiers went on to find jobs in civilian life.

# Health & Fitness

## New optimism about stemming spread of AIDS virus

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—An AIDS-free generation: It seems an audacious goal, considering how the HIV epidemic still is raging around the world.

Yet more than 20,000 international HIV researchers and activists will gather in the nation's capital later this month with a sense of optimism not seen in many years—hope that it finally may be possible to dramatically stem the spread of the AIDS virus.

"We want to make sure we don't overpromise," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's infectious disease chief, told The Associated Press. But, he said, "I think we are at a turning point."

The big new focus is on trying to get more people with HIV treated early, when they're first infected, instead of waiting until they're weakened or sick, as the world largely has done until now. Staying healthier also makes them less likely to infect others.

That's a tall order. But studies over the past two years have shown what Fauci calls "striking, sometimes breathtaking results," in preventing people at high risk of HIV from getting it in some of the hardest-hit countries, using this treatment-as-prevention and some other protections.

Now, as the International AIDS Conference returns to the U.S. for the first time in 22 years, the question is whether the world will come up with the money and the know-how to put the best combinations of protections into practice, for AIDS-ravaged poor countries and hot spots in developed nations as well.

AP

In this undated handout photo provided by Orasure a model demonstrates the OraQuick test, which detects the presence of HIV in saliva collected using a mouth swab. The test is designed to return a result within 20 to 40 minutes. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first over-the-counter HIV test Tuesday, July 3, 2012, allowing Americans to check themselves for the virus that causes AIDS in the privacy of their homes.

"We have the tools to make it happen," said Dr. Elly Katabira, president of the International AIDS Society, which organizes the world's largest HIV conference, set for July 22-27. He points to strides already in Botswana and Rwanda in increasing access to AIDS drugs.

But Fauci cautioned that moving those tools into everyday life is "a daunting challenge," given the costs of medications and the difficulty in getting people to take them for years despite poverty and other competing health and social problems.

In the U.S., part of that challenge is complacency. Despite 50,000 new HIV infections here every year, an AP-GfK poll finds that very few people in the United States worry about getting the virus.

Also, HIV increasingly is an epidemic of the poor, minorities and urban areas such as the District of Columbia, where the rate of infection rivals some developing countries. The conference will spotlight this city's aggressive steps to fight back: A massive effort to find the undiagnosed, with routine testing in some hospitals, testing vans that roam the streets, even free tests at a Department of Motor Vehicles office, and then rapidly getting those patients into care.

"These are the true champions," Dr. Mohammed Akhter, director of the city's health department, said of patients who faithfully take their medication. "They're also protecting their community."

A few miles east of the Capitol and the tourist-clogged monuments, the Community Education Group's HIV testing van pulls into a parking lot in a low-income neighborhood with a particularly high infection rate. An incentive for the crowd at a nearby corner is the offer of a $10 supermarket gift card for getting tested.

Christopher Freeman, 23, is first in line. He was tested earlier this year and says showing off that official paper proclaiming him HIV-negative attracts "the ladies."

"Forget money, it's the best thing you can show them," he said.

But that test was months ago, and Freeman admits he seldom uses condoms. He climbs into the van and rubs a swab over his gums. Twenty minutes later, he's back for the result: Good news—no HIV. But counselor Amanda Matthews has Freeman go through a list of the risk factors; it's education to try to keep him and his future partners safe.

"Just try to get yourself in the habit of using condoms," she said. "You say it's hard to use condoms but what if you do contract the virus? Then you've got to take medications every day."

Freeman waves his new test result with a grin, and walks off with a handful of free condoms.

At a nearby bus stop, counselor Laila Patrick encounters a little resistance while handing out condoms, when a woman says that encourages sex outside of marriage. "Stopping AIDS is everyone's business. You're looking out for the next person," Patrick said. "You might just want to help someone be safe."

## Study: Hormone pill slows prostate cancer's growth

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A hormone-blocking pill approved last year for some men with advanced prostate cancer now also seems to help a wider group of men who were given it sooner in the course of treating their disease.

In a study of nearly 1,100 such men, Johnson & Johnson's Zytiga doubled the time patients lived without their cancer getting worse.

The drug also seems to be improving survival, but it will take longer follow-up to know for sure. Independent monitors stopped the study once it was clear the drug was helping and let men who had been getting dummy pills to switch to Zytiga. At that point—after a median treatment time of two years—34 percent of men on dummy pills had died versus 27 percent of those taking Zytiga.

"Our hope is that this can become a new option" for up to 30,000 men each year in the United States, said study leader Dr. Charles Ryan of the University of California, San Francisco.

He gave results Saturday at a meeting in Chicago of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men. In the United States alone, more than 240,000 new cases and 28,000 deaths from the disease are expected this year. Many cases don't need treatment because the cancer grows so slowly it isn't a threat. For men who choose treatment when the disease is still confined to the prostate, surgery and radiation are common options.

Once it spreads, though, it often is treated with drugs that curb testosterone. They block about 90 percent of the hormone, "but that remaining 10 percent can still stimulate the cancer and cause death from the disease," Ryan said.

AP

This undated image provided by Johnson & Johnson shows the drug Zytiga.

Zytiga blocks virtually all of it—"it's really complete chemical castration," said another study leader, Duke University's Dr. Daniel George.

The drug won federal approval last year for men with advanced prostate cancer whose disease had worsened despite treatment with standard hormones and chemotherapy. The new study tested it earlier in the course of illness—in men with advanced prostate cancer who have not yet received chemotherapy.

Researchers gave more than 1,000 patients in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia either Zytiga or dummy pills plus a steroid that also is widely used to treat such cases.

When the study was stopped, the median time until cancer worsened in the group getting dummy pills was about eight months. Those on Zytiga were faring much better, so doctors can only estimate the time it is taking for their cancers to worsen—at least 16 months, Ryan said.

There were more cases of high blood pressure, fluid retention and heart problems among men on Zytiga. Like other hormone-blockers, it can cause hot flashes and sexual problems. And Zytiga is expensive—$5,500 a month in the United States.

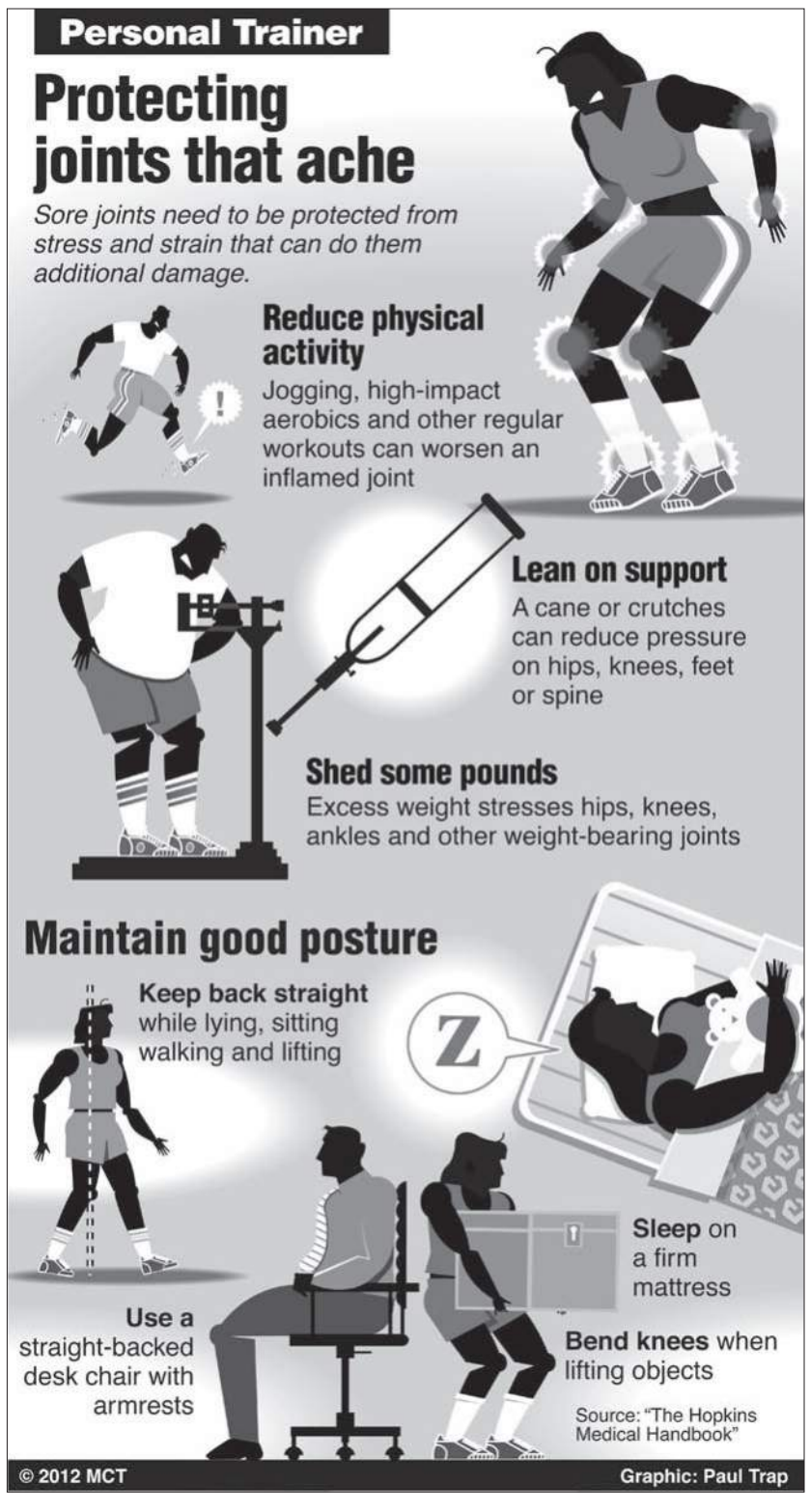
The study was sponsored by the drug's maker, Johnson & Johnson's Janssen division, and some study leaders have financial ties to the company. The company plans to seek approval later this year to sell the drug for men like those in the new study.

Michael Wells, 65, a retired construction worker from Oakville in California's Napa Valley, was diagnosed nearly 12 years ago with prostate cancer that had spread to his bones. Standard hormone and radiation treatments kept it in check for many years, but when it started growing, he enrolled in the study.

Zytiga gave him high blood pressure but other than that, "I have not noticed any difference taking the pills—I've always had hot flashes" on prostate medicines, he said.

He has now been on Zytiga for nearly three years, and scans show his cancer is in check.

"It's worked for me, and it's still working," Wells said.


Personal Trainer
Protecting joints that ache
Sore joints need to be protected from stress and strain that can do them additional damage.
Reduce physical activity
Jogging, high-impact aerobics and other regular workouts can worsen an inflamed joint
Lean on support
A cane or crutches can reduce pressure on hips, knees, feet or spine
Shed some pounds
Excess weight stresses hips, knees, ankles and other weight-bearing joints
Maintain good posture
Keep back straight while lying, sitting walking and lifting
Sleep on a firm mattress
Use a straight-backed desk chair with armrests
Bend knees when lifting objects
Source: "The Hopkins Medical Handbook"
© 2012 MCT
Graphic: Paul Trap

# Life & Style

## Caravaggio claims spark Italian art world spat

**ROME** (AP)—Caravaggio was notorious for his brawling, so it might be fitting that a claim by two Italian art historians that they discovered as many as 100 drawings by the painter in his boyhood has sparked an art world uproar.

The researchers say they found dozens of early drawings by Caravaggio in the collection of master Milanese artist Simone Peterzano, the painter's teacher from 1584 to 1588. Many experts have responded with skepticism to the startling claim: Over the centuries, art historians have never definitively attributed any drawings to Caravaggio, who shook up 16th-century art by using models from the lower walks of life for religious scenes and dramatically counterpointing light and dark.

On Friday, the curator of the drawings collection at Milan's Sforzesco Castle, where the collection of 1,500 painting generally attributed to Peterzano is kept, challenged the seriousness of the researchers' methods and contended that the pair had never set foot in the room to scrutinize the works.

``We would be happy to have a Caravaggio,'' Francesca Rossi said, cautioning that it's difficult to be sure of the works' provenance. Making it especially difficult to pin works on Caravaggio was the artist's habit of not signing his own work. Attempts at fakes and uncertain claims of authenticity have been frequent.

She dismissed the historians' methods as naive.

``What surprised us about this thing is the fact that these experts never came here in the drawings department to see the works,'' Rossi told The Associated Press. ``They evaluated (the drawings) using black and white photographs.''

The researchers defended their claim, which they made public on Thursday in an interview with the Italian news agency ANSA.

Adriana Conconi Fedrigolli, told the AP in a phone interview that some of their research team studied the drawings firsthand. When pressed to identify the other researchers, she said she wasn't authorized to reveal their names and passed the phone to the other art historian, Maurizio Bernardelli Curuz.

AP

Francesca Rossi, curator in charge of the Sforzesco Castle drawings collection, looks at a work by Umberto Boccioni, in the same room where sketches by mannerist painter Simone Peterzano are preserved, in Milan, Friday, July 6, 2012.

"I saw the originals," Bernadelli Curuz said. The art historian said he was able to visit the collection ``after hours,'' thanks to his contacts with a high-level city official who was authorized to enter the drawings department. He declined to identify the city official.

But he insisted that he and Conconi Fedrigolli worked ``in a very scientific way'' using photos of the drawings and comparing details to those in well-known Caravaggio works.

He said it was not logical that among the Peterzano collection drawings there wouldn't be any by Caravaggio, a star pupil then known as Michelangelo Merisi. The artist is better known by the name of the Italian town where he was born.

He contended they were able to distinguish drawings by Peterzano from those of his pupils, including Caravaggio.

Among the prominent skeptics was Antonio Paolucci, the director of the Vatican Museums and one of Italy's most esteemed art historians and restoration experts, who pointed out that many experts have seen the drawing and "not one of those experts had come up with the name of Caravaggio."

Paolucci described the claim as ``pure inductive optimism'' in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano on Friday, though he acknowledged it was always possible that "researchers with lesser credentials but with an especially gifted eye, sensitivity and also luck" had pinpointed something new.

Paolucci has experienced first-hand the perils of attributing works to great artists, particularly Caravaggio. Two summers ago, the Vatican Museums director wrote an article under the headline ``A New Caravaggio? Not really,'' a week after the Vatican newspaper first suggested that a painting depicting St. Lawrence could be that of Caravaggio—but then backtracked.

## Spanish police arrest 4 for offering fake Picasso

**MADRID** (AP)—The Interior Ministry says police have arrested four people for trying to sell a forged Pablo Picasso oil painting for up to €1.2 million ($1.5 million).

The canvas, a counterfeit version of a 1964 work called "The bust of Jeune Garcon" was accompanied by false authenticity documents bearing the signatures of Paloma, one of the Spanish painter's daughters, and a renowned French art expert.

Investigators sought professional advice from museum experts and determined that the real painting, which is slightly different to the offered fake, carries official certification by Maya Widmaier, the Malaga-born painter's oldest surviving offspring.

The ministry said in a statement Saturday that officers arrested three art brokers involved in the offer for sale and the current owner, a well-known Madrid antiquarian.

## Muhammad Ali named 2012 Liberty Medal recipient

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Boxing great Muhammad Ali, known for his unabashed self-confidence inside and outside the ring as well as his outspokenness on social and humanitarian causes, is the recipient of the 2012 Liberty Medal.

Ali, 70, will receive the medal in a ceremony on Sept. 13 in Philadelphia at the National Constitution Center. The three-time world heavyweight champion was not in attendance for Thursday's announcement.

Previous recipients of the Liberty Medal, which was established in 1988 to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, include rock singer and human rights activist Bono, former South African President Nelson Mandela and former President Jimmy Carter. Six winners have subsequently received the Nobel Peace Prize.

"Ali embodies the spirit of the Liberty Medal by embracing the ideals of the Constitution—freedom, self-governance, equality and empowerment—and helping to spread them across the globe," said former President Bill Clinton, chairman of the National Constitution Center, an institution dedicated to increasing public understanding of the Constitution and the ideas and values it represents.

Liberty Medal sponsors and partners said Ali's lifelong courage and conviction exemplify the qualities that the award was established to honor, from his outspoken advocacy for civil and religious freedom to his philanthropy, social activism and humanitarian efforts.

"Muhammad Ali symbolizes all that makes America great, while pushing us as a people and as a nation to be better," said National Constitution Center president and chief executive officer David Eisner. "Each big fight of his life has inspired a new chapter of civic action."

The fast-talking, boisterous fighter who referred to himself as "the greatest" was born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. on Jan. 17, 1942. He took up boxing at age 12 and flourished in the ring, becoming a top amateur and Olympic gold medalist.

Ali won the heavyweight title in 1964, defeating the heavily favored Sonny Liston. Soon after, Ali—who was raised in a Baptist family—announced his conversion to Islam and changed his name.

While in his prime, Ali was stripped of his heavyweight crown in 1967 for refusing to be inducted into the military during the Vietnam War because of his religious beliefs. The decision resulted in a draft-evasion conviction and spurred a long legal fight that ended in 1971, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor.

Three years after his retirement from boxing in 1981, Ali announced he had Parkinson's disease, a degenerative brain condition that some researchers believe may be brought on by repeated blows to the head. Despite the diagnosis, he devoted himself to traveling the world on humanitarian missions bringing food and medical supplies to developing nations throughout the Middle East, Africa, South America and Asia. He also continues to work at home in the U.S. to raise funds for organizations including the Special Olympics and the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Research Center in Phoenix.

In 2005, Ali was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.


*Death and Funeral Announcement*

**Ignacia Iglecias Camacho**

December 3, 1944 – July 2, 2012

***In Her New Life She Now Joins Her:***

**Parents:** Anselmo Celis & Antonia Manglona Iglecias
**Parents In-Law:** Antonio & Francisca Castro Camacho
**Brother:** Anselmo Manglona Iglecias
**Husband:** Antonio Castro Camacho
***She also joins her numerous Uncles and Aunts***

***Her Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of Her:***
**Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:**
**Joaquin** M. & Sue Iglecias and children
**†Anselmo** M. & Maria R. Iglecias and children
**Andresina** I. & Bill Benavente and children
**Mathilde** I. & David S. Celis and children
**Rosa** I. & James Heil and children
**Carmen** I. Lizama & Steve Schram and children
**Antonia** MM Iglecias & Ernie A. Balbin and children
**Merced** I. & Raymond P. Dela Cruz and children
**Thomas** M. & Elisa Iglecias and children

**Beloved Friend:** Crisanto Lagmay

***She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews and godchildren.***

Nightly Mass is being offered at 6:00PM at the San Antonio Church.

On Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 7:00AM our beloved Sister will be escorted from CHC Morgue to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway, Salamat Po

**The Family**

# Justin Bieber cited for speeding on LA freeway

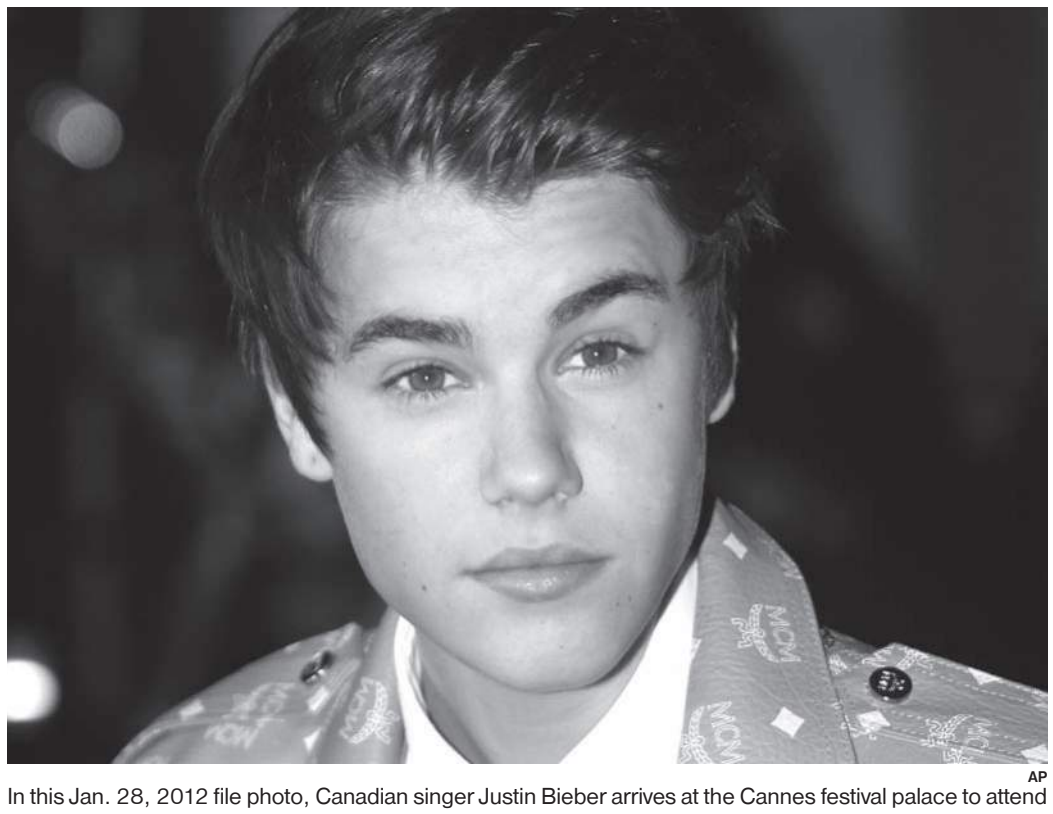
**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Justin Bieber is used to attracting crowds. But he had at least one follower too many when somebody tailed him on a Los Angeles freeway, and it led to a speeding ticket for the teen idol.

The singer of "Boyfriend" and "Baby" was cited for driving in excess of 65 mph at about 10:45 a.m. Friday, after calls came in complaining of a freeway chase on southbound U.S. Highway 101 near Studio City, said Officer Ming Hsu of the California Highway Patrol.

The 18-year-old crooner told officers he was being chased by paparazzi, and investigators confirmed he was being followed by at least one vehicle, Hsu said. "The second vehicle left the area and there's a search to find that driver," Hsu said.

Hsu did not have a description of the other vehicle.

A call and an email to Bieber's publicist weren't immediately returned.



AP

In this Jan. 28, 2012 file photo, Canadian singer Justin Bieber arrives at the Cannes festival palace to attend the NRJ Music awards ceremony, in Cannes, southeastern France.

The claim of a chase is backed by an unlikely eyewitness, Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, who called authorities after seeing Bieber's distinctive chrome Fisker Karma being chased by five or six other cars.

On his morning commute to City Hall, Zine, who spent 33 years as a police officer, said he saw Bieber's sports car drive up behind him and zoom around him, weaving wildly in and out of traffic while five or six other cars gave chase.

Zine estimated the chase exceeded 100 mph as paparazzi engaged in wild maneuvers to keep up with Bieber, including driving on the shoulder and cutting off other vehicles.

Zine said Bieber was breaking the law by driving recklessly and speeding, and the paparazzi were breaking the law by hounding him.

"This was very bizarre, very outrageous and showed a total disregard for life and property," Zine said.

Zine, a witness to countless crashes and fatalities during his time as an officer, said he was surprised no one crashed.

"The way (Bieber) was driving was totally reckless, I would have arrested him if I had pulled him over," said Zine. "I wouldn't have given him a ticket and let him go."

Friday's incident isn't the only time the floppy-haired singer has had conflict with paparazzi. In May, a photographer called authorities, complaining he was roughed up by the pop star in a shopping center, The Commons at Calabasas.

Authorities said the scuffle happened when a photographer tried to snap photos of Bieber and his girlfriend, teen actress Selena Gomez.

In April 2011, Bieber called off a meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, saying he cancelled, in part, because he didn't want to face the country's notoriously aggressive paparazzi.

# Seventeen magazine: We celebrate all shapes, sizes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Score one for girl power.

A 14-year-old Maine ballet dancer who led a crusade against altered photos in Seventeen magazine now has a promise from top editor Ann Shoket to leave body shapes alone, reserving Photoshop for the stray hair, clothing wrinkle, errant bra strap or zit.

And when Shoket or her staff do manipulate images, she vowed in the August issue, they'll post before and after shots on the magazine's Tumblr page for full transparency.

Shoket's promises are included in a "body peace treaty" that also commits the magazine to always feature healthy girls and models regardless of clothing size.

The young activist, Julia Bluhm, said Friday from her summer camp she's "really excited."

"I didn't think it would get this big," she said. "It's a really great surprise for me." Julia and her mom, Mary Beiter, sat down with Shoket in New York in early May to discuss the thousands of signatures on the Waterville girl's online petition at Change.org. Julia declared victory after Shoket's announcement, ending with more than 84,000 signatures.

AP

In this May 2, 2012 photo, Julia Bluhm of Waterville, Maine, holds up a copy of "Seventeen" magazine as she leads a protest outside Hearst Corp. headquarters in New York.

Now, two of her fellow bloggers from SPARK Summit, a group of girls and young women trying to end the sexualization of girls in the media, are targeting Teen Vogue to make the same commitment. They've collected more than 15,000 signatures since Tuesday.

Shoket did not identify Julia by name in her full-page declaration, which also denied the magazine ever changed the shapes of bodies and faces. She had no further comment Friday.

The editor did cite the support of the National Eating Disorders Association. The group's president, Lynn Grefe, lauded the effort as a first step but said far more must be done to promote positive body image and a more attainable standard of health and beauty in magazines and other media.

"I'm not saying it's a total victory," Grefe said. "Seventeen, Teen Vogue, Vogue, Cosmo, every magazine still has ads for diet products and other things that we find problematic, but in terms of the Photoshopping stuff, I believe that Ann is sincere and wants to really educate the consumer and work with the girls and show them what has been Photoshopped and how to recognize that."

Julia's mother also was pleased but agreed: "Certainly there's probably more that they could do, but these things probably come in stages, and something is something. Something is good. It opens the door. That's always the biggest hurdle."

Julia had asked Seventeen to run at least one unaltered photo spread a month, saying Seventeen and other magazines put pressure on girls to emulate perfect-looking models without realizing images have been doctored. Manipulated images, Grefe said, contribute to eating disorders, depression and low self-esteem among girls as young as 8.

# U2 bassist's ex-aide gets 7 years' jail for theft

**DUBLIN** (AP)—A former household aide to U2 bassist Adam Clayton received a seven-year prison sentence Friday after an Irish jury unanimously found her guilty of embezzling more than €2.8 million ($3.6 million) from the musician.

Carol Hawkins, 48, offered no response to the sentence as prison guards led her out of Dublin Criminal Court.

Hawkins had been free on bail after being found guilty last week of 181 counts of writing checks from Clayton's bank account for her own use from 2004 to 2008. Records showed she used the money to buy designer clothing, 22 thoroughbred horses, a car, university education for her two children and first-class flights.

Judge Patrick McCartan said in his ruling that Hawkins deserved a severe sentence because she had demonstrated no remorse, falsely tried to pin blame for her grandiose spending on the often-absent Clayton, and could attempt similar offenses again if not jailed.

"Nothing, frankly, could explain away the scale of this dishonesty other than the greed in pursuit of a lavish lifestyle that was no responsibility of Mr. Clayton's," the judge said.

Dismissing her claims that she hadn't understood that what she was doing was wrong, the judge said, "These were crimes rooted in greed and nothing else. Whether she was a fool or clever person really matters very little."

McCartan also ordered Hawkins to surrender the profits from a sale of a New York City apartment to Clayton to help reimburse him for his losses. The potential amount wasn't specified in court. Her defense attorney, Ken Fogarty, said she didn't have money hidden away overseas and would do all she could to repay the €2.8 million.

Clayton, 52, wasn't present in court to see his longtime domestic assistant sent to prison.

During the trial, Hawkins had claimed that Clayton either authorized her expenditures or that she had paid him back by using her own money to pay his bills.

But Clayton testified he'd known nothing about Hawkins' four-year spending spree and had given her access to his bank accounts purely so she could pay bills related to his Georgian mansion, Danesmoate, in south Dublin.

# Charlie Watts shines a light on Rolling Stones' 50th plans

By JOHN CARUCCI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Even though he's played in the same rock 'n' roll band for nearly 50 years, Charlie Watts still prefers playing jazz.

The Rolling Stones drummer learned how to play it by imitating his favorite jazz players as a teenager.

So during his breaks with the Stones, Watts has played jazz, not rock, and that legacy continues with his latest venture, The A, B, C, and D of Boogie Woogie. The quartet recently released "Live in Paris" from one of their shows during a recent 10-show run at the club Duc des Lombards.

Watts recently spoke to The Associated Press about the project, as well as what's being planned for the Rolling Stones' 50th anniversary next year.

**AP: Tell me about the comfort level of this band.**

**Watts:** I've known Dave (Green) for 65 years. We've lived next door to each other. He's always in bands that I've been in besides the Rolling Stones. Axel (Zwingenberger) I've known since '80-something. And Ben (Waters) I've known for three years, but I've known of him from many years before that because he's a progeny—his aunt and uncle were friends of a guy called Ian Stewart who used to play piano with us. And I used to play in one of Stew's bands in this county called Dorcet. That's how I know his aunt and uncle. And I know of Ben because he loved Stew and tried to emulate his playing.

**AP: Is there a big difference in playing drums in a jazz band from playing in a rock band?**

**Watts:** I don't play power drums; they just turn the knobs up now. Yes, it's much more physical to play rock 'n' roll, especially with the volume that you play at—that they play at, they being guitar players as opposed to playing this with a tenor saxophone player or trumpet player. The volume is all the same, particularly with the A, B, C, and D of Boogie Woogie, obviously two are piano players. To play well with a piano player, you have to be able to play—there's a lot of control needed. And you're playing almost acoustically.

**AP: So what's next for you?**

**Watts:** I think we're going to be doing a lot of 50th anniversary stuff, we, the Rolling Stones.

**AP: Like a tour or an album?**

**Watts:** No, just other things. Fifty years of things. A documentary, well, they haven't approved it yet. I haven't seen it, but we worked on that earlier this year. Books and things like that. There will be other things that the 50 years mean. And touring, we haven't gotten that far. We're still talking about the color of the back page of the book, so we'll see what happens.

**AP: Fifty years? Marriages don't often last that long.**

**Watts:** Actually mine lasted 49 years. ... When I joined the Rolling Stones ... I thought it would last a few months, because that's what bands last. I'd been in a lot of bands up until then that last two or three months. Then it became three years. I thought that's it, it won't. ... We're very fortunate. One of the ways that it lasted so long because we have a huge fan base, and I don't mean that in a conceited way, but it is that. ... With the Rolling Stones it's people saying, "It's the fans," people saying, "Yes, you should." And indeed it's us saying, "We'll play New Haven," and if people come, you know, that keeps it going on and on.

# Susan Boyle gets honorary degree from university

**LONDON** (AP)—Singing sensation Susan Boyle has been awarded an honorary doctorate from a Scottish university.

Boyle, who shot to fame on a TV talent show, wore blue-and-white academic robes as she accepted the degree Friday from Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University in recognition of her "contribution to the creative industries."

The singer once studied for a higher education certificate at the university.

A 40-something church volunteer from a small Scottish village, Boyle became a global sensation in 2009 after she performed the song "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables" on the television program "Britain's Got Talent."

She has since sold 18 million records around the world and performed for audiences from the U.S. to China.

# Ringo Starr turns 72 in Nashville with peace, love

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—The 1960s mop top is gone, but Ringo Starr is still flashing a peace sign.

The former Beatle marked his 72nd birthday in Nashville Saturday by holding a "peace and love" moment at noon. He asked people worldwide to do the same at 12 o'clock in their time zones.

The idea came to him in 2008 when an interviewer asked him what he wanted for his birthday. Since then, he has held events each year in cities such as New York, Chicago and Hamburg, Germany.

"It's sort of catching on more and more, the more we do," Starr said before the festivities. "We got lots of blogs from Japan and China and all over the world saying, `We did peace and love.' So it's working."

Hundreds of fans joined Starr at Hard Rock Café, shouting "peace and love" at the magic hour and holding two fingers in the air. The crowd sang "happy birthday" and the chorus of "Give Peace A Chance." One fan held up a sign declaring the last time she saw Starr in person. He pointed to her and joked, "I hugged this woman in 1964, and she still can't get over it."

Organizers presented him with a star magnolia tree that will be planted nearby. He also cut a cake shaped like a flower pot with a giant sunflower growing out of it. Party favors included frosted cookies and white, "peace and love" rubber bracelets.

Starr's family and friends showed up, including country singer Vince Gill and Eagles guitarist Joe Walsh. Walsh played in the 72-year-old's first All Starr Band in 1989, which features a rotation of celebrity musicians. Now they're related. Walsh married Marjorie Bach, who is the sister of Starr's wife, Barbara Bach.

AP

In this photo provided by Rob Shanahan, musician Ringo Starr, center, celebrates his 72nd birthday with his wife Barbara Bach, left, and musician Joe Walsh, right, at The Hard Rock Cafe, Saturday, July 7, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Death certificate: Griffith died of heart attack

**RALEIGH, North Carolina** (AP)—The death certificate for Andy Griffith says the actor's death earlier this week was caused by a heart attack. The certificate says the 86-year-old had suffered the attack 24 hours before he died at 7 a.m. Tuesday. It also says he had suffered for years from other illnesses, including coronary artery disease, hypertension and hyperlipidemia, which can be a form of high cholesterol or high triglycerides. Griffith's death certificate was filed Thursday with the vital records office in Dare County. It says he's buried in the Griffith Family Cemetery in Manteo. Dr. Johnny Farrow of Manteo signed the certificate.

### Angelina Jolie visits Bosnia for film festival

**SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina** (AP)—Angelina Jolie has arrived in Bosnia to attend the Sarajevo Film Festival, this time as the city's honorary citizen.

Jolie has previously visited the country as a UNHCR ambassador which inspired her to make her own movie about the 1992-95 Bosnia war. "In the Land of Blood and Honey" was released last year. In April, authorities in Sarajevo named the actress-director an honorary citizen in recognition of her directorial debut. Jolie landed in Bosnia's capital on Saturday with three of her children and will appear on the red carpet at the film festival in the evening.

### Jerry Seinfeld to debut Web series set in cars

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jerry Seinfeld is going back on the road. The comedian announced Thursday that he'll debut the Web series "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" on July 19. The interview show will feature Seinfeld's comedian friends as guests. In a teaser video, Seinfeld is shown driving various vintage cars with Larry David, Ricky Gervais, Michael Richards, Alec Baldwin and others. The show is presented by Crackle, the digital network owned by Sony Pictures Entertainment.

### Blagojevich's brother writing book on legal saga

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Imprisoned former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's brother says he's writing a book about his own three-year-long legal ordeal that resulted in prosecutors dropping all charges against him. Robert Blagojevich told The Associated Press on Friday he's hoping to finish the book by year's end. It is currently titled, "How I Survived the Federal Justice System." Both brothers were initially tried together. Jurors couldn't reach a verdict in Robert's case and convicted the impeached former governor on only one count. Prosecutors dropped the case against Robert Blagojevich and retried his brother, who was then convicted on several counts including that he tried to sell or trade President Barack Obama's former U.S. Senate seat. Rod Blagojevich is serving a 14-year prison term.

# Woman pleads guilty to smashing Cowell's window

**LONDON** (AP)—A judge on Friday banned a 30-year-old woman from going near Simon Cowell after she admitted smashing a window of the entertainment mogul's house with a brick.

Leanne Zaloumis was arrested March 24 at Cowell's west London mansion.

Prosecutors say Cowell was watching TV in his bedroom when he heard a loud bang coming from his bathroom and discovered Zaloumis inside a wardrobe with a brick.

At a court hearing Friday, Zaloumis admitted possessing a brick with intent to damage or destroy property, but denied burglary and affray.

Prosecutors accepted her plea, meaning she will not face trial.

Judge John Denniss said the 102 days Zaloumis has spent in jail were sufficient punishment, but warned she would go to prison if she breached her bail conditions, which forbid her from contacting Cowell or going within 300 yards (meters) of his home.

She also has to wear an electronic tag and observe an overnight curfew.

Cowell, 52, has gained fame in both Britain and North America as producer and an acerbic judge on TV talent shows including "The X Factor" and "America's Got Talent."

His spokesman, Max Clifford, said Cowell was "glad that the judge was understanding and sympathetic, and hopes that she (Zaloumis) gets some help and support."

# VH1's Big Ang writing book, building her brand

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Big Ang was the breakout star of VH1's "Mob Wives," and now the fan favorite is building her brand: She's writing a book.

Big Ang said Friday that her first book will be released on Sept. 11 through Simon & Schuster. It's called "Bigger Is Better: Real Life Wisdom from the No-Drama Mama." She said it will include "all kinds of stuff."

Big Ang's real name is Angela Raiola. She first gained attention on the second season of "Mob Wives" as the friendly one and peacemaker when the girls got into fights.

VH1's website says she's the niece of Salvatore "Sally Dogs" Lombardi, a deceased captain of the Genovese crime family.

The 52-year-old will also launch her own VH1 reality show, called "Big Ang," this Sunday.

"I didn't think about any of this. This all came to me," she said of her recent fame. "Did you think at my age I was looking to go on TV?"

Big Ang also said she's scouting locations for a store called Big Ang's Secrets, which will include "spray tans, eyelash extensions, hair extensions. Everything I love."

The reality star is widely known for her look, mainly her full lips and breasts. She said she's interested in more plastic surgery.

"I'd like to have the face (lifted) a little bit. When I think I need it," she said.

"I'm not really addicted," added Big Ang, saying she's gotten surgery in 10-year spans. "But I like it. I like whatever makes you look better and younger. They say `grow old gracefully.' I don't think so. I'll do whatever it takes to stay young."

# 'Sorry, wrong number' isn't good enough for irate callers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Over the past month I have accidentally dialed a couple of wrong numbers. Because no one answered, I didn't think it was necessary to leave a message.

Abby, both times the recipient of the wrong number called me to find out why I had called. The first time it was an irate mother demanding to know why I was calling her kid's cellphone. She threatened to call the police if I ever called again. The second individual also angrily demanded to know why I was calling. These folks could not accept the fact that I had simply misdialed.

I feel their reactions were unwarranted. Would you agree? What is the best way to respond if it happens again?

HONESTLY MISTAKEN IN PLANO, TEXAS

**DEAR HONESTLY MISTAKEN: People call wrong numbers every day. A misdial can occur if the caller is in a hurry or has poor vision, and it should not be a cause for panic or rudeness. If it happens again, the best way to respond is, "I misdialed. I'm sorry I bothered you." Then end the call.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother's Alzheimer's became apparent after she was in a car accident. I should have noticed the signs earlier, but I didn't. Her body recovered, her mind did not.

I built a new house with a separate suite for her. My wife and I tried to care for her for a year, but I'm disabled and Mom was afraid of my wife. There was never a moment's peace. Fearing for our collective health, I finally placed Mom into an assisted living facility. It was one of the hardest decisions of my life.

My children criticized me but offered no alternatives. I visited her as often as possible. Because I could no longer drive, I sent someone with gifts and treats for her. Mom died in 2007 after 10 years in the facility. The last few years she didn't know me from a doorknob. Her disease left my wife and me drained emotionally and financially. I still feel guilty for not doing more. The look of fear on her face haunts me still. Is this normal for someone in my circumstances?

ONLY CHILD IN FLORIDA

**DEAR ONLY CHILD: Yes, it's very common. I'm sorry for your mother's passing and the difficult years you and your family experienced because of her illness.**

**Given the progressive nature of Alzheimer's, it can be extremely taxing and affect the physical, mental and financial health not only of the person with the disease, but also his or her caregivers. When caregivers attempt to shoulder these responsibilities alone, they put their own health at risk. Moving your mother into a residential facility was a way to ensure she got the care she needed and take care of yourself at the same time.**

**Alzheimer's disease is often referred to as a "marathon, not a sprint." That's why it's important for caregivers to get help —whether it's a residential facility, professional in-home help or family and friends. If they don't, the results can be disastrous.**

**It's common for caregivers to feel guilty and wish they could have done more, but it's important that you let these feelings go. You did everything you could to ensure your mother received the best care possible. If you need to talk to someone about your feelings, call the Alzheimer's Association toll-free 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900, or visit alz.org online to find a local chapter or support group.**

■■■

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

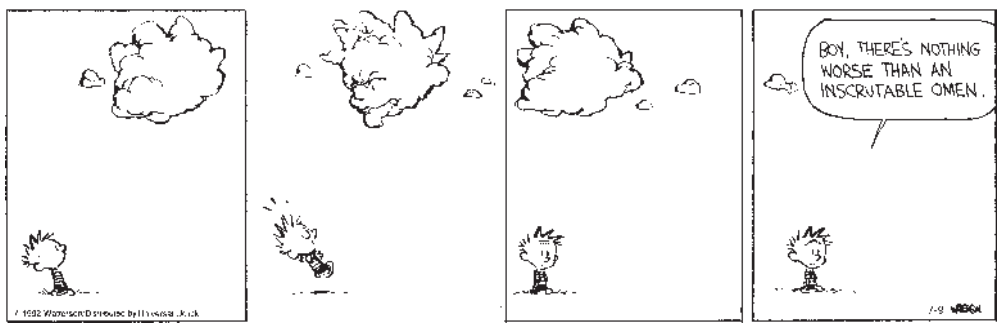
■■■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

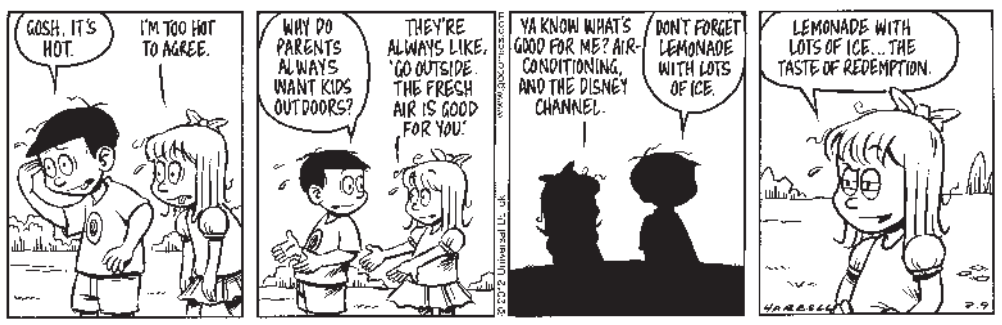



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


GOSH, IT'S HOT.
I'M TOO HOT TO AGREE.
WHY DO PARENTS ALWAYS WANT KIDS OUTDOORS?
THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE, 'GO OUTSIDE. THE FRESH AIR IS GOOD FOR YOU.'
YA KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR ME? AIR-CONDITIONING, AND THE DISNEY CHANNEL.
DON'T FORGET LEMONADE WITH LOTS OF ICE.
LEMONADE WITH LOTS OF ICE... THE TASTE OF REDEMPTION.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

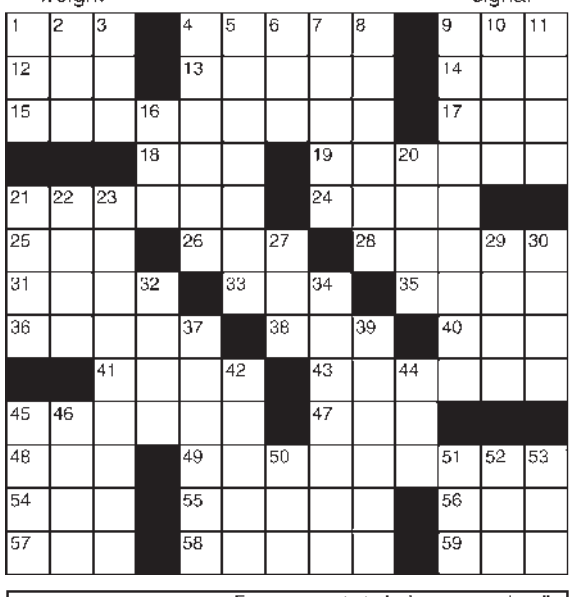
**ACROSS**
1 Binge
4 Founded (on)
9 Stir-fry need
12 Eggs
13 Scent
14 Rage
15 Quasi-modo's workplace
17 Shelter, at sea
18 Flightless bird
19 Kevin of "SNL" fame
21 They give one pause
24 Faucet problem
25 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
26 Siesta
28 Skier's hill
31 Protein-rich beans
33 Felon's flight
35 Move back and forth
36 Lifts to test the weight
38 Thanks-giving veggie
40 Adam's mate
41 Meadows
43 Went sight-seeing
45 Ink stain, e.g.
47 "— Impos-sible"
48 De-pressed
49 Bath alterna-tive
54 Candle count
55 Obliterate
56 Hockey surface
57 That woman
58 Parking lot device
59 Deity

**DOWN**
1 Task
2 St. crosser
3 Guy's compan-ion
4 Bruce Wayne's alter ego
5 Stirring
6 Boar's mate
7 Make correc-tions
8 "— go first"
9 Energetic determi-nation
10 Sandwich cookie
11 Acute
16 Moon vehicle
20 Has a bug
21 Moolah
22 Reed instru-ment
23 How pilgrims pro-gressed?
27 Remuner-ation
29 Macad-amize
30 Watched
32 Undo a dele
34 "The Piano Lesson" painter
37 Tribal chief
39 Mom
42 Coastline
44 GIs' entertain-ment grp.
45 Mediocre
46 Theater box
50 Tit for —
51 Peruke
52 Environ-mentally friendly
53 Stop signal

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | S | A | ■ | S | H | A | G | ■ | S | T | O | A |
| L | O | N | ■ | K | O | L | A | ■ | C | H | O | P |
| O | P | T | ■ | A | T | O | M | ■ | R | A | Z | E |
| W | H | I | S | T | L | E | B | L | O | W | E | R |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | K | E | Y | ■ | L | A | D | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| N | A | D | I | R | ■ | ■ | H | E | W | ■ | F | D | A |
| A | H | F | M | ■ | ■ | M | A | R | ■ | ■ | N | O | D | S |
| B | A | N | ■ | J | E | T | ■ | ■ | T | E | E | T | H |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | G | O | O | ■ | H | O | W | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| P | E | N | N | Y | W | H | I | S | T | L | E | S |
| A | R | F | A | ■ | I | O | N | S | ■ | ■ | A | I | F |
| P | I | C | S | ■ | N | U | D | E | ■ | ■ | M | A | X |
| A | N | K | H | ■ | G | R | I | D | ■ | ■ | A | N | Y |

Saturday's answer 7-9



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Fred Savage, 36; Courtney Love, 48; Tom Hanks, 56; Chris Cooper, 61.

**Happy Birthday**: Don't worry about change. Sometimes force is what's needed to progress. Think outside the box and be creative in your pursuits. A new direction will help you expand your mind and realize your potential. Look at your accomplishments and you will find a way to build a brighter future. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 28, 32, 36, 42.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Embrace a challenge and show everyone how skilled you are. Good fortune will surface through conversations with people who work in the same industry as you. A one-on-one connection you make will lead to a long-lasting relationship. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Compromise will be needed in family matters. Concentrate on picking up information and deciphering what will work best for you in terms of personal and professional advancement. Don't let someone from your past disrupt a personal relationship. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Take on only what you know you can handle. Spreading yourself too thin will be your downfall. Baby steps and a strict budget should get you what you need to achieve your goals. Don't let jealousy lead to costly mistakes. ✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Beautify your surroundings, inside and out. Do something unique that will complement a relationship that means a lot to you. Develop a creative skill you can use to separate you from any competition you come up against professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give up or give in. Make whatever alterations are required to get what you want. Your ability to adapt will make a good impression on someone looking for services you have to offer. Romance is highlighted and will improve your love life. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do whatever needs to be done and keep moving. Avoid criticism or getting into discussions that will slow you down or cause you grief. Problems with someone you care about will surface if one of you displays overindulgence. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't believe everything you hear. Rely on intuition and intelligence to guide you when dealing with emotional matters. Focus on looking your best and taking advantage of opportunities that will enable you to advance. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't lend or borrow money or possessions. The personal changes you make to the way you live or do things will pay off. Good fortune will result from meeting someone well-connected in an industry in which you can offer your services. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Concentrate on money, contracts and legal matters. A partnership with someone who can contribute equally to a project you want to pursue will change the dynamics of your proposal and up the ante financially. Progressive action will bring results. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Protect your assets, your ideas and your job. Avoid discussions that cannot play out in your favor. Be ready to counter any changes made that can disrupt your plans or ruin your reputation. Avoid unorthodox dealings or methods of cutting corners. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do whatever it takes to advance mentally, financially and personally. The changes you make at home will enhance your love life and help you deal with anyone who has been a poor influence on you. A move will do you good. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't be too quick to judge others, or you may be judged harshly in return. Concentrate on self-betterment and you can avoid criticism and setbacks concerning friends, relatives and your way of life. A hobby will help ease your stress. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You have plenty of energy and enthusiasm. You are versatile and charming.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | 2 | | | | 7 | 3 | |
| | | | | 9 | 7 | | | 8 |
| 6 | | | 3 | | | | | 5 |
| | | 1 | | 5 | | | 6 | |
| | 6 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| | 5 | | | 4 | | 8 | | |
| 5 | | | | | 1 | | | 6 |
| 4 | | | 9 | 2 | | | | |
| | 8 | 7 | | | | 3 | | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★ 7/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**PICKET FENCES** Solution: 6 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | S | E | T | S | O | P | P | R | A | D | E | C | N | N |
| S | O | T | N | Y | Ⓗ | Ⓞ | Ⓜ | Ⓔ | W | O | O | D | E | N |
| T | I | L | Y | I | A | O | O | I | U | N | E | I | D | Y |
| N | Y | Z | O | L | P | R | R | T | S | L | G | E | R | R |
| T | A | P | E | R | E | D | D | T | C | H | T | A | A | E |
| N | M | T | E | S | S | O | R | Y | B | N | D | S | G | N |
| E | E | S | F | S | O | U | C | O | U | N | E | S | R | E |
| M | T | U | A | R | C | E | R | O | U | T | C | E | A | C |
| E | A | R | S | T | R | H | M | O | I | E | O | M | S | S |
| V | L | R | I | P | O | E | B | H | P | T | R | B | S | P |
| O | Y | O | E | O | E | C | W | N | W | A | L | L | T | I |
| R | N | U | D | L | D | N | U | O | R | G | N | E | N | N |
| P | I | N | I | E | I | E | S | O | L | C | N | E | A | D |
| M | V | D | S | S | W | F | S | M | A | N | U | A | L | L |
| I | N | S | E | R | T | L | A | N | D | S | C | A | P | E |

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Assemble, Boundary, Cedar, Colors, Construction, Decor, Enclose, Fence, Garden, Gate, Grass, Ground, Home, Improvement, Insert, Landscape, Lawn, Manual, Metal, Mounted, Neighborhood, Outdoors, Panel, Pine, Plant, Poles, Post, Recycled, Safe, Scenery, Short, Side, Sizes, Spindle, Style, Surrounds, Tapered, Types, Vinyl, White, Wide, Wooden, Yard

**Last Saturday's Answer: Dancing**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

## WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

## FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Anaks Condo, 2BRs, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, a/c, storage, r/o water, swimming pool, tennis court, gated, 24/7 security. Ideal location, close to central Garapan. Call Ron Barrineau 322-4758 or 483-4785.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

---

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

---

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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JOE HILL, ESQ.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. BOX 500917, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MIR MAHBOBUR RAHMAN,** Petitioner, versus | ] FCD DI ] CIVIL ACTION ] NO. 12-0294 |
| **JUDITH JULIAN KINOCH-RAHMAN,** Respondent. | ] **SUMMONS** |

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th of June, 2012.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

---

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(1) CHINESE INTERPRETER**

Submit resume to:
**INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE AGENCY**
or call tel nos. 234-1942 • 235-5555

---

Job Vacancy Announcement

**SAIPAN AUTO CLINIC COMPANY**
is looking for

**1- Radiator Repairer**

Minimum wage. Must have at least 1 year work experience.

Interested Qualified US Workers can fax resume to 235-7742.

---

**Duplex Apt Capitol Hill**

2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc., very private: 322-2424

---

**CLICK IT OR TICKET**
**DAY & NIGHT**

---

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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

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**HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL**
P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 | TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 FAX: ( 670) 237-2529

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Open Date:** July 5, 2012 **Close Date:** July 12, 2012

**Position:** (1) Sales Clerk
**Salary:** $5.05 per hour

**Job Qualification:** High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience / Preferably Chinese Speaking.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at
Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

**AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER**

---

Michael J. and Rosa I. Gioda
Chalan Laulau, Saipan
Telephone No.: 235-3341

pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: P.M.I.G. (d.o.b. 3/8/1995)** Minor Child<br>**By:**<br>**Michael J. and Rosa I. Gioda** Petitioners. | ] **NOTICE OF HEARING** |

**FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0324**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 23, 2012 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2012.

Bernadita A. Sablan

Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

---

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Yano Enterprises, Inc.**

**Restaurant Supervisor (1):** Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

**Restaurant Waitress (2):** Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Able to introduce & recommend menu to customer & other duties related.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

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# Griffin, Harden, Iguodala on US Olympic roster

Coach Mike Krzyzewski, left, and USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo, right, stand with the 12 players named to the U.S. men's basketball team, Saturday, July 7, 2012, in Las Vegas. From left in front are Chris Paul, Russell Westbrook, Deron Williams, James Harden, Andre Iguodala and Kobe Bryant. At rear are Carmelo Anthony, Blake Griffin, Tyson Chandler, Kevin Love, Kevin Durant and LeBron James.

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)— LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and three other Olympic gold medalists were already back.

Add a defensive stopper, a potent scorer off the bench, and one of the NBA's most explosive athletes, and the U.S. is certain it has a powerful Olympic basketball team.

Better even than the one that won gold four years ago.

"We feel like we're definitely a great team. We have all the pieces that we need," forward Carmelo Anthony said. "We've got to put it together, but we feel like we're the best team out there."

The Americans rounded out their roster Saturday, adding Blake Griffin, Andre Iguodala and James Harden to the nine players who already seemed secure long before training camp began.

They earned the final three spots that opened after a rash of injuries knocked out at least four players who would have been on the team. They beat out Eric Gordon, Rudy Gay and No. 1 draft pick Anthony Davis of New Orleans, who couldn't scrimmage this week because of a sprained ankle.

Also heading to London for the defending gold medalists are: Chris Paul, Deron Williams, Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook, Tyson Chandler and Kevin Love.

The Americans never had a close game four years ago until the championship game, when they pulled away in the final two minutes to beat Spain 118-107. Even with Dwight Howard, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh unable to return from that team, the Americans think this one can be even stronger.

"When I think about `08, we were really good then. But like me, LeBron and D-Will, all of us talk about, you've got to think about how much better all of us are now than we were in '08," Paul said. "All of us as players, we shoot the ball better. Guys are more athletic, guys are more confident. One through 12, no question we're deeper than we were in '08."

USA Basketball Jerry Colangelo acknowledged the adversity the team faced with all the injuries in his remarks before the players were introduced during a press conference, all wearing their white USA jerseys - James and Anthony even looking game-ready in white headbands.

"But as the dust settles, I'm proud to say that we've put together in my opinion a terrific team with great athleticism and great versatility and we believe we're going to be successful," Colangelo said.

Griffin showed he was healthy again after being slowed by a knee injury during the playoffs, putting on an impressive dunking display following practice Saturday. Harden, the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year with Oklahoma City, gives the Americans more scoring punch off the bench, and Iguodala is a defensive specialist who can guard multiple positions.

The Americans lost Howard, Derrick Rose, Wade and Bosh to injuries in recent months, forcing them to scrap plans to name their 12-man roster on June 18. They asked the US Olympic Committee for a roster extension and added Harden and Davis to their original pool of finalists chosen in January.

Harden seemed a long shot, joining Griffin as the only player who didn't play on either of the last two U.S. teams. But the Americans felt they needed someone comfortable with coming off the bench more than they did Gay, who was behind too many other forwards on the depth chart, and the result was three players from the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"Great characters, workaholics, just humble guys, humble guys and blessed to be in this position," Harden said of himself, Durant and Westbrook. (Guys) who work hard and just set ourselves up for greatness and to achieve, and just to be on the same team with these guys means a lot."

Colangelo was intrigued by Davis' skills, but the national player of the year at Kentucky sprained his ankle last week and was not able to take part this week, robbing him of a chance to show he was ready to handle international competition now.

Iguodala was frequently assigned the role of shutting down the opponent's best player two years ago in the world basketball championship, and he previously had scrimmaged against the U.S. on the select team of young players, so Colangelo and coach Mike Krzyzewski knew what he could do.

"I think they've just seen that I can pretty much play alongside pretty much anybody and still make an impact on the game. I don't necessarily have to have the ball to make an impact on either end," the 76ers swingman and first-time All-Star said. "I've been playing with Kevin Durant, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, pure scorers, and when I get in, it won't be a problem for me to fit in with those guys. I'll jell right along with them right away."

James, Bryant, Anthony, Paul and Williams were all part of the 2008 Olympic gold medalists. Durant, Westbrook, Chandler and Love also played on the world championship team two years ago.

Colangelo said he believed this team was deeper and better than the '08 squad, but added that "only time will tell."

The injuries leave the Americans short-handed at center, where Howard started four years ago in Beijing and Bosh backed him up. Chandler is the only natural center left, so the Americans will be forced to use some players out of their normal NBA positions.

But what remains is still the most athletic team in the world, with potent scorers at nearly every spot, and the Americans will look to overcome any size disadvantage by punishing teams in transition. Griffin said expects to be strictly at the center spot.

The Americans opened training camp Friday and will practice here through next Wednesday, then play an exhibition game against the Dominican Republic on Thursday.

The players who were not selected will be alternates who could be replacements in case of further injuries up until 48 hours before the July 27 start of the Olympics. Davis will stick around just in case, playing on the select team.

James and Anthony will be playing in their third Olympics for a U.S. team with an average age is 26.1 years. The young guys, combined with the veteran returnees, could make for a golden mixture.

"I think we have guys on the team that's definitely hungry at this point, especially young guys that want to go out and prove themselves," Anthony said. "They've been showing that over the last couple of days in practice. What we put together in `08, we will never duplicate that again. But this is a new team, this is a new situation and this team wants to form their own identity."

# Webb Simpson leads Greenbrier Classic

**WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va.** (AP) — Webb Simpson likes the way he's avoiding bogeys and figures he'll need to play smart again at the Greenbrier Classic to get his second win in three tournaments.

The U.S. Open champion shot a 5-under 65 in the third round Saturday to take a two-stroke lead into the final round. Simpson had his second straight bogey-free round to reach 14 under on The Greenbrier Resort's Old White TPC Course.

Troy Kelly was second after a 62. Rookie Charlie Beljan, J.B. Holmes and Ken Duke were 11 under. Beljan had a 67, Holmes a 66, and Duke a 65.

Simpson isn't disappointed that Tiger Woods isn't around to challenge him. Woods missed the cut for only the ninth time in his PGA career.

"When he's not lurking around on Saturdays and Sundays, it makes it a little easier I think for other guys," Simpson said.

Simpson said he plans to peek at the leaderboard, "but the way I look at it is, I've got to go shoot under par (Sunday). And if I don't, somebody's going to probably going to probably (play) pretty good. I think the golf course is playing in such a way that there's plenty of birdie opportunities.

"I've almost got to imagine that these guys are all going to shoot 4, 5 under. I've got to stay aggressive."

Simpson has been in this position before. He briefly led entering the final nine holes last year, but faded to a tie for ninth.

"I realized shortly after the round that I wanted it so bad that it kind of put more pressure on myself than the pressure I was already feeling," he said. "So it kind of locked me up a little bit and I wasn't able to perform like I had been all week.

"I think it's good for me to remember that, not only (Sunday) but every week that I just have to let it come to me."

Simpson started the third round a stroke ahead of five others. He opened with six straight pars before gaining momentum on the back nine. He two-putted for birdie from 24 feet on the par-5 12th, made a 7-footer at No. 14 and retook the lead from Kelly with a 6-foot putt on the 597-yard 17th. Simpson finished it off with a 20-footer for birdie on the par-3 18th.

He'll be pursued Sunday by a pair of players making medical comebacks.

Kelly underwent hip-replacement surgery in September 2010 after being diagnosed with arthritis. Holmes had part of his skull removed in September 2011, four months after he started having vertigo symptoms. He returned to the tour in January.

While playing the mini-tour circuit several years ago, Kelly didn't know what was causing pain in his left hip. He played through it for two years but got to the point where he could barely walk, so he went to a doctor and surgery followed.

"For me to just play this game at a high level, I had to go get it done," Kelly said.

# Yankees, Red Sox split double-header

**BOSTON** (AP)—Another fast start wasn't nearly good enough for a sloppy effort by the New York Yankees.

The Yankees committed a season-high four errors, leading to a pair of unearned runs, extra baserunners and extended innings in a 9-5 loss to the Boston Red Sox in the nightcap of a split doubleheader Saturday.

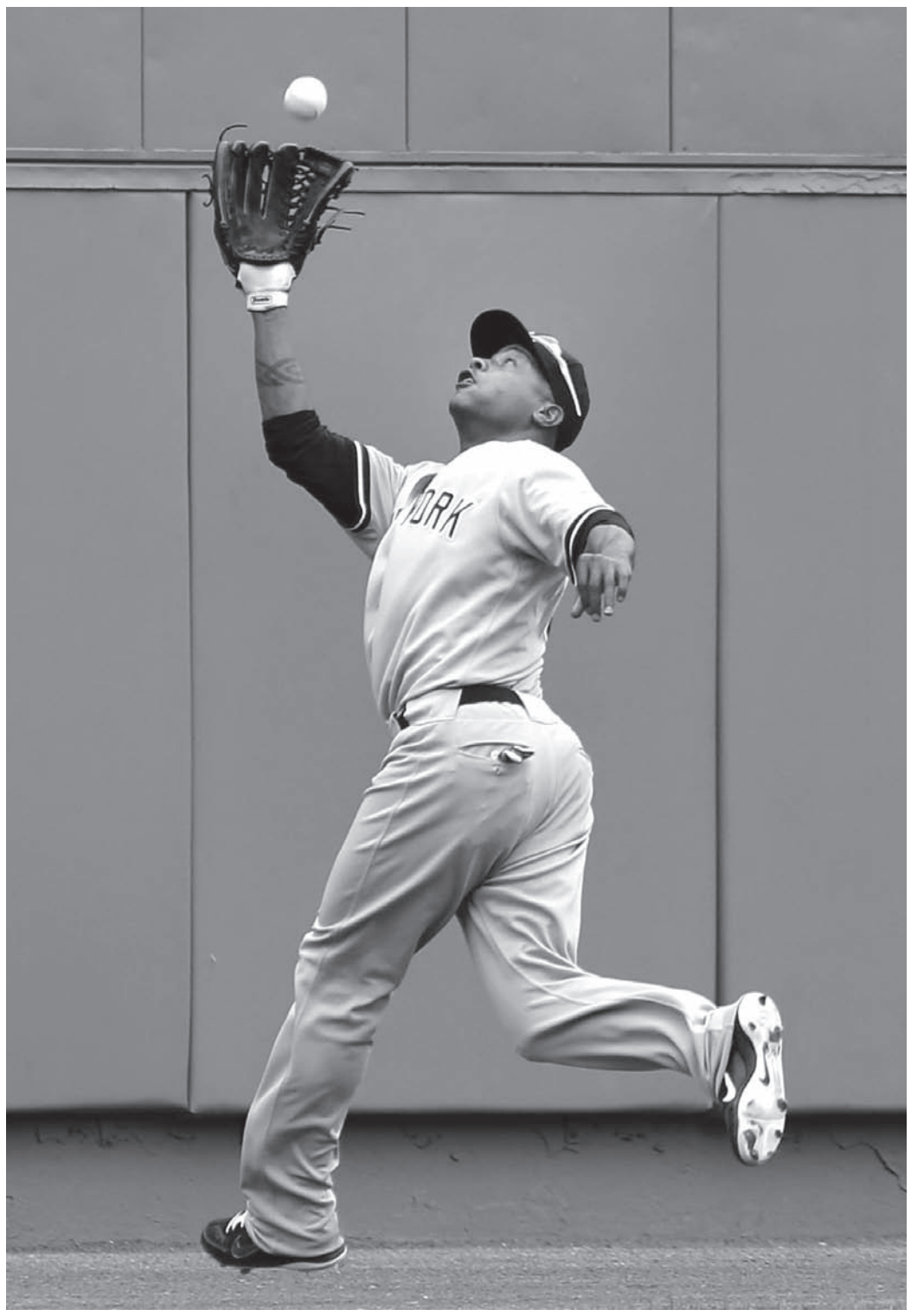
Following a 3-hour, 59-minute game in the opener and a long muggy afternoon, the Yankees appeared worn down.

But captain Derek Jeter wasn't thinking that way.

"That's an excuse," he said. "You play the same game. We didn't play well. That's the bottom line."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi agreed that the errors made things a lot tougher.

New York's Andruw Jones hit two of the Yankees four homers as the visitors won 6-1 in the opening game of a double-header against their arch rivals, the Boston Red Sox, on Saturday.



AP

New York Yankees center fielder Dewayne Wise tracks down and catches a fly ball by Boston Red Sox's Ryan Kalish in the seventh inning of the first baseball game of a day-night doubleheader at Fenway Park in Boston, Saturday, July 7, 2012.

### White Sox 2, Blue Jays 0

In Chicago, Gavin Floyd pitched 7 2-3 scoreless innings to lead Chicago past Toronto.

Floyd (7-8) improved to 3-1 with a 1.37 ERA in his past four starts.

Kevin Youkilis hit a two-run homer for the White Sox, who have won five straight to move a season-high 10 games over .500. The American League Central leaders also have won a season-high seven straight at home.

### Indians 7, Rays 3

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez struck out eight over six innings as Cleveland beat Tampa Bay.

Jimenez (8-7) allowed a two-run homer in the fourth, but otherwise was in command, walking only one.

Shelley Duncan hit a two-run homer for the Indians, who got three doubles in the second inning off rookie Matt Moore (5-6) as they jumped to a 3-0 lead.

### Rangers 4, Twins 3, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Nelson Cruz hit an RBI double in the 10th inning to lead Texas over Minnesota, snapping a five-game losing streak.

Texas' Josh Hamilton had a home run, walk and a run scored, playing as designated hitter one night after suffering back spasms.

Cruz finished 3 for 5 with two doubles and two RBIs.

Joe Nathan (1-2) pitched scoreless ninth and 10th innings for the Rangers.

### Tigers 8, Royals 7

In Detroit, Prince Fielder hit a two-run home run in the first inning and Detroit kept its nose in front to edge Kansas City.

Delmon Young had a two-run homer to pad the lead in the seventh.

Detroit closer Jose Valverde started the ninth with a four-run lead and almost lost it, giving up a two-run homer to slice the lead to two, then seeing what appeared to be a three-run shot caught at the wall. A sacrifice fly and a strikeout ended it.

### Mariners 7, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Jason Vargas pitched a seven-hitter to win for the first time in more than a month, and the Seattle Mariners snapped Oakland's five-game winning streak with a 7-1 victory Saturday night.

Kyle Seager hit a bases-loaded double to drive in three, Brendan Ryan added a two-RBI double in the second and Ichiro Suzuki singled up the middle in the fifth to snap a career-worst 0-for-23 hitless stretch as the Mariners scored their most runs since a 14-10 loss at Arizona on June 20.

### Pirates 3, Giants 1

In Pittsburgh, James McDonald scattered four hits over seven innings and Mike McKenry homered as the Pittsburgh Pirates edged the San Francisco Giants 3-1 on Saturday.

Neil Walker doubled twice and drove in a run while extending his hitting streak to 11 games and Joel Hanrahan worked the ninth to pick up his 23rd save.

McDonald (9-3) struck out 10 and walked none, winning his fourth straight start and lowering his sparkling ERA to 2.37.

### Cardinals 3, Marlins 2

In St. Louis, Kyle Lohse tossed seven solid innings in strong heat and Tony Cruz hit a go-ahead two-run triple to help St. Louis stop Miami's three-game winning streak.

Allen Craig had three hits and Skip Schumaker added an RBI single in the fourth for the Cardinals, who have won five of seven. All-Star David Freese was hit by a pitch twice, walked and singled to reach base safely in all four trips.

Giancarlo Stanton left in the third inning with right knee discomfort and the Marlins said he would have arthroscopic surgery on Sunday.

### Braves 6, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Tommy Hanson pitched effectively into the eighth, steering Atlanta past struggling Philadelphia.

Hanson (10-5) allowed three runs, striking out six in seven-plus innings.

Brian McCann homered for the Braves.

Philadelphia, the five-time defending NL East champions, has lost nine of 10.

Phillies starter Joe Blanton (7-8) allowed six runs in 6 1-3 innings.

### Nationals 4, Rockies 1

In Washington, Gio Gonzalez pitched six innings of three-hit ball to earn his 12th win as Ian Desmond homered to power Washington to the victory.

Gonzalez (12-3) won his fourth straight start to move into a tie with R.A. Dickey of the New York Mets for the major league lead in wins. Gonzalez allowed one run, walked three and struck out six.

It was the fifth victory in six games for the Nationals, who own the best record in the NL.

### Mets 3, Cubs 1

In New York, Ike Davis homered, Jordany Valdespin hit one out for the second day in a row and Dillon Gee pitched one-run ball for eight innings to help New York beat Chicago.

Gee (6-7) yielded seven hits, struck out four and walked none. Bobby Parnell allowed a leadoff double to Anthony Rizzo, but retired the final three batters for his second save, striking out Steve Clevenger on a 101 mph fastball to end it.

## Nats' Harper, Braves' Bourn added to NL roster

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Nationals manager Davey Johnson was talking to general manager Mike Rizzo on Saturday when he called for Bryce Harper to come over.

Harper thought it was one of two things: "I was thinking I was going down because Rizzo and everybody was over there or the All-Star game," he said.

Forget about that minor league return, Bryce. Next stop, baseball's showcase game in Kansas City.

The 19-year-old Harper became the youngest position player to make the Midsummer Classic and third youngest All-Star ever when NL manager Tony La Russa selected the precocious outfielder to replace injured Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton.

Atlanta Braves speedster Michael Bourn also made the NL team Saturday, replacing Washington Nationals shortstop Ian Desmond.

"Words can't explain it right now," Harper said following Washington's 4-1 victory over the Colorado Rockies. "I think it's exciting to go and I'm excited to get there and be around all the top guys in the country, of course, top guys in baseball. So I'm just going to take it all in, try to enjoy it with the family and try to just be as mellow and calm as I can."

Stanton left in the third inning of Miami's 3-2 loss at St. Louis and the Marlins said their lone All-Star representative would have arthroscopic right knee surgery on Sunday, shelving one of baseball's best young sluggers for next week's festivities.

"He might be out for a month or six weeks, that's what I think," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "Hopefully less. We're better off that way because that kid couldn't do anything."

Pittsburgh Pirates center fielder Andrew McCutchen will take Stanton's spot for Monday night's home run derby.

Desmond has been dealing with a left oblique strain and is going to use the break to rest. He consulted with team doctors, management and La Russa before the decision was made to skip the game.

Bourn made the NL team for the second time. He entered Saturday's game at Philadelphia with a .305 batting average, seven homers, 32 RBIs and 23 stolen bases.

Desmond's absence put a damper on what could be the first of many All-Star appearances for Harper, who was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 amateur draft.

"I think he's had a great year and has had a great first half," Harper said. "So it's going to be a bummer him not being there. He's one of the best shortstops in baseball right now. It kind of sucks that he's not going."

Harper began the year in the minors but was promoted on April 28. He quickly made an impression with his all-out play for NL East-leading Washington, and is batting .283 with eight homers and 25 RBIs in 61 games.

The Las Vegas native, who was born on Oct. 16, 1992, is the youngest All-Star since New York Mets ace Dwight Gooden, who was about a month younger than Harper when he pitched two scoreless innings in the NL's 3-1 win in 1984. Gooden is the youngest All-Star ever, followed by Hall of Famer Bob Feller in 1938.

The record for youngest position player was held by Minnesota Twins catcher Butch Wynegar, who was 20 when he played in the AL's 7-1 loss in 1976.

### Astros 6, Brewers 3

In Houston, Scott Moore homered for the second straight day, and J.D. Martinez and Jose Altuve had three hits each as Houston ended a season-long nine-game losing streak.

Milwaukee starter Zack Greinke (9-3) was looking for his 10th win; instead he was gone after four pitches — ejected after spiking the ball following a close play at first base. Manager Ron Roenicke also was tossed for arguing the call and the Brewers were forced to piece together the game with six relievers.

### Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 3

In Phoenix, Trevor Cahill pitched seven solid innings to help the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 on Saturday night.

Cahill (7-7) gave up three runs and six hits and improved to 17-1 in his past 22 starts when Arizona scores three or more runs.

## SERENA

*From Page 28*

her grit as good as ever, Williams was dominant at the start and finish, beating Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 to win a fifth championship at the All England Club and 14th major title overall, ending a two-year drought.

"I just remember, I was on the couch and I didn't leave the whole day, for two days. I was just over it. I was praying, like, `I can't take any more. I've endured enough. Let me be able to get through this,'" recalled Williams, a former No. 1 whose ranking slid to 175th after a fourth-round loss at the All England Club last year, her second tournament back.

"Coming here and winning today is amazing," she said. "It's been an unbelievable journey for me."

Certainly has.

That's why tears flowed during the on-court trophy ceremony. And why Williams squeezed tight during post-victory hugs with her parents and older sister Venus, who has five Wimbledon titles of her own - meaning that one pair of siblings who learned to play tennis on public courts in Compton, Calif., now accounts for 10 of the past 13 singles trophies. They added their fifth Wimbledon doubles championship Saturday night, teaming to beat Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-4.

"She hasn't had an easy road. Things have happened in her life that you can't predict or control, so it's hard to be in that situation. Things happen that you didn't deserve," said Venus, who is dealing with an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue. "For her to fight through that and come back and be a champion. ... It was definitely emotional."

A few days after winning Wimbledon in 2010, Serena Williams cut both feet on broken glass while leaving a restaurant in Germany. She needed two operations on her right foot. Then she got blood clots in her lungs, for which she needed to inject herself with a blood thinner. Those shots led to a pool of blood gathering under her stomach's skin, requiring another procedure.

"That made her realize where her life was, really, and where she really belonged and that she really loved the game," said Williams' mother, Oracene Price. "You never appreciate anything until you almost lose it."

Against Radwanska, who was trying to be the first Polish Grand Slam singles champion, Williams was streaky at times, but also superb. She won the first five games and the last five. She compiled a 58-13 landslide of winners. She swatted 17 aces, including four at 114 mph, 107 mph, 115 mph, 111 mph in one marvelous game to pull even at 2-all in the third set. That was part of a momentum-swinging run when Williams claimed 15 of 18 points, and that quartet of aces raised her total for the fortnight to a tournament-record 102, surpassing her own mark of 89 in 2010; it's also more than the top number for any man this year at Wimbledon.

## SENIOR

*From Page 28*

Saturday after bowing to the Philippines, 5-11.

In other results, New Zealand beat PH (2-1) last Friday, 4-1, and Guam routed New Zealand last Saturday morning, 19-1. Thailand (1-2), Indonesia (1-3) and China (1-4) make up the rest of the division.

China dropped its first four games before breaking the spell with a 19-8 victory over Indonesia. Indonesia routed Thailand last Friday, 19-6, and Thailand bested China last Saturday, 13-3. The Philippines was scheduled to play Thailand yesterday afternoon with the former favored to win the crucial match. Indonesia closes up against PH today 10:45am, while Guam collides with Thailand at 1:30pm.

### CNMI 8, Guam 7

Guam stamped two runs in the opening frame off a two-RBI double by Kel Francisco, but CNMI fired back with two runs in the bottom portion from a two-RBI base rip by Ray Saralu that brought in Lancaster Secharmedal and AJ Lizama.

The count then shifted to 6-4, in favor of the CNMI as a pair of runs delivered by Napu San Miguel Afaissen and Sage was answered by four runs off five hits. Lizama bagged an RBI single and Jun Rabauliman unloaded on a two-RBI smash to right field.

Both teams tightened up on defense for the next two innings and Guam mounted a three-run rally in the fifth inning to move in front, 7-6, off two hits. Jesse Miner busted an RBI double and Guerrero made an RBI base knock.

CNMI's Frankie Lieto committed three errors in the sketchy inning, but made up for it at the plate with a two-RBI single to left field that went through the defenders legs, allowing CNMI to reclaim the lead.

Secharmedal was called to the mound after Guam's rally in the fifth. He made it cleanly through the sixth, but Guam put the tying run on second base in the final stand. However, in the end, Jonathan Villagomez made a huge catch on the run in deep centerfield for the dramatic finish.

### Philippines 11, CNMI 5

The Philippines scored three quick runs out of the gate off two hits and some errors. Christian Mercado bagged an RBI single.

The count then shifted to 5-3, in the second inning as both teams moved around two runs.

The Philippines cracked three hits, including a two-RBI base rip by Andrew Merachi, while CNMI whacked four hits that brought in Davin Ada and Frankie Camacho.

The Philippines went ahead, 8-2, in the top of the fourth, as its top of the order loaded the bases with a double, a hit and a walk, which set up a pair of costly RBI walks and an extra run off a fielder's choice. The CNMI managed to get one back in the bottom frame, but was tripped up by a double play in the inning. The PH added a run in the sixth and two more in the seventh and held CNMI to just two runs in the final stand.

## BIG LEAGUE

*From Page 28*

the way to the last inning when the PH pushed ahead, 3-2, in the seventh after Felipe Remollo legged out an extra bag when his shot to the shortstop caused a hurried throw over to first base. Dylan Tantuico provided the much needed RBI single. Heavy rain then fell with two outs in the top of the seventh causing the game to be suspended until Saturday.

The action picked up just before the teams' second pairing last Saturday and entailed an non-climatic ending. The CNMI got out of the inning quickly, but came up empty in the final stand.

### Guam 9, CNMI 8

Guam assumed an early 2-0 favor in the first inning, thanks to a pair of RBI singles by Cody Dowless and Sean Cruz. The host moved forward, 4-0, in the second inning from a sacrifice fly by Palycaro Luther and three stolen bases by speedster Darren Pablo, who also hustled out a fumbled bunt to third base.

CNMI starting pitcher Nathan Guerrero was tapped by Harry Nakamura in the third inning and the reliever made it through three innings on the hump before running into trouble.

On the other side of the plate, the CNMI's top of the order finally found some offense in the fourth inning and pulled within a run, 3-4.

Leadoff batter Patrick Tenorio was hit by a pitch and Duenas reached on a fielder's choice where everybody was safe and later Brian Camacho hit a two-RBI double.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI Big League All-Stars' Brian Camacho torques back for a big swing against the Philippines during their game in the 2012 Little League Baseball Asia Pacific Regional Tournament at the Paseo Stadium in Guam

The CNMI then surged ahead, 8-3, in the fifth inning off two hits and five errors. Rocco Reyes reached on an error and was moved over to third base after a fielder's choice by Jeremy Lizama. Reyes scored thanks to a bad throw by the catcher.

Lizama made it all the way to third base after the error and Lamarc Iguel drew a walk to put runners on the corners. Tenorio dropped a sacrifice bunt and a hurried throw to the plate missed its mark, allowing Lizama to score and Iguel to move to third base. Duenas stepped in next and drilled a sizzler down the third base line and took second base after a wild throw on the play.

Camacho then bashed a single and made it over to second base, which set the table for a two-RBI bash by Keoni Lizama through the shortstop before Guam could escape the inning.

CNMI left two runners on base in the sixth and Guam made it a one run game, 7-8, in the bottom frame. Nakamura sat down his first man, but then plunked two batters in a row. Guam managed runners on the corners with two outs and a bobbled cut off maneuver to second base by CNMI left the door open for a late rally. Guam loaded the bases with a fielder's choice and a another hit-by pitch by Nakamura gifted the host rival a run.

Notably, CNMI was receiving calls on the outside of the plate, so Nakamura had to work from the inside. The Guam batters were not leaning into the pitches, but were not trying to avoid them either. Four batters ended up getting beamed altogether.

Joe Palacios was waved in from right field to the mound after the break down and got the CNMI out of the jam with the lead still intact, 7-8. The CNMI then stranded another pair of runners in the seventh and a controversial delay during the side change caused a screeching halt to the rhythm of the game.

Palacios went to the mound and began to warm up, but the CNMI staff decided to go with Kevin Villagomez to close the game. However the Guam coaches protested that since Palacios was already warming up, by rule he had to throw at least one pitch before being substituted. As it turned out that rule only applies to new pitchers entering the game and the CNMI never broke a rule.

Three consecutive walks led to Villagomez being replaced by Carl Camacho who, despite getting ahead in the count, gave up a booming two-RBI walkoff to Guam's Nichaus Cruz.

### CNMI 3, Philippines 2

The rematch was a nice pitching duel as the game remained scoreless for the first five innings.

The CNMI managed a pair of runs in the sixth inning off a pair of RBI singles by Brian Camacho and Harry Nakamura. Lamarc Iguel reached second base on an error to start the inning and was driven home by Camacho. Nakamura then doubled him home for the early edge, however the Philippines obliged with two runs in the bottom frame off a passed ball and an RBI single by Miguel Salud.

Both teams kept each other in check in the last inning of regulation and the CNMI scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning.

Duenas reached on an error and hustled over to second base on an error at shortstop. Camacho then jacked a towering RBI double over the center fielder's head and went to the mound and secured the win in a 1-2-3 fashion.

### Junior, Major All-Stars fall short

Meanwhile, the CNMI Major and Junior All-Star squads both advanced in their respective pool play, but still fell short in the title bids.

The Major All-Stars advance to Saturday's semifinals, but fell to host team Chinese-Taipei, 2-8, at the Taichung Taipei's Wens Shiao Field. Notably, Kier Agda belted a home run in the loss.

Over at the Nha Trang City City in Vietnam, the CNMI Junior All-Stars bowed to Chinese-Taipei in the finals last Friday, 1-5.

## QQ

*From Page 28*

the ball on his way to the basket. Dave Sablan then picked up the loose ball, but babied a fastbreak layup. Fortunately for Wanted Sponsor, Lawrence Rollon was there for the trailer and drew a foul on his way for the offensive board and split his charities, cutting the lead to three, 84-87.

QQ's George Cruz was fouled in the ensuing play and missed both charities, while Wanted Sponsor tied the game, 87-all, off Jun Pantaleon's triple, 87-87, 1:28 left on the clock. Wanted Sponsor gave up another foul and Concepcion made a split for a slim 88-87 advantage, but he later canned a short jumper for 90-87 cushion after QQ regained possession with Marlon Sison stealing the leather from Kae Bernando.

Wanted Sponsor committed another error when Sablan's feed to Bernardo to the left wing bounced off the latter's hands and went out to the baseline. However QQ also lost the leather on the other end with Sablan picking it up and this time making sure he nailed the easy basket. Wanted Sponsor moved within one anew, 89-90, with 30 seconds left on the clock.

However, Sison and Camacho teamed up for QQ in the next play to give their team more breathing room. Sison, who hit four straight triples in the fourth period to give QQ a double-digit lead, drove to the basket and drew the defense of Wanted Sponsor players first before dishing the ball out to Camacho to the right wing for a basket and a foul. Camacho missed the bonus and there was a scramble for the loose ball with Sison touching the leather last before it rolled out to the baseline.

Wanted Sponsor was left with 10 seconds to attempt for a game-tying trey, but could not convert, as Basila and Bernardo were well covered and the former was forced to make a cross court pass to the right key to Sablan. Sablan's heave was too strong and that has been his story in the second half, as he was held to two free throws and a field goal in the third and missed his first seven shots in the fourth canto.

Sison led QQ's win with 22 points, 18 of them coming from downtown, while Camacho added 17.

In the second game, Ashley's downed Loving Hands Day Care, 83-72.

Ashley's won by 11 points, but led by as much as 26 in the third period, starting its breakaway midway in the second canto.

The match was tied last at 31-all before Ashley's launched an 11-2 rally en route to a 53-40 halftime advantage. In the second half, Ashley's padded the lead behind the hot shooting of Jack Lizama, who outscored the entire Loving Hands crew, 12-8.

Lizama and other Ashley's starters stayed on the bench in the fourth canto, as they were comfortably ahead, 73-48.

Ashley and QQ will now wait for the two other semifinalists. DLX and the Hip Hop Thunder were scheduled to play last night for the third semis ticket, while NVM and Mobil battled for the fourth semis spot. In the semis, the four qualifiers will draw lots for the pairing.

### First Game

**QQ Rent A Car 92** – Sison 21, Camacho 17, Mangali 13, Faisao 12, Cruz 8, Acosta 6, Paraiso 6, Sablan 3, Concepcion 3.

**Wanted Sponsor 89** – Sablan 21, Bernardo 13, Yabut 12, Basila 10, Pantaleon 9, Rollon 5, Capalad 4, Cadag 3, Diyco 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-16, 47-41, 69-61, 92-89.

### Second Game

**Ashley's 83** – Abuel 19, Lizama 18, Inos 13, Cortez 9, Mungcal 9, Mendoza 9, Usi 5, Norita 4.

**Loving Hands Day Care 72** – Lerio 22, Gabaldon 10, Barrios 8, Abuy 8, Morales 7, B. Aquino 4, Pangilinan 3, G. Aquino 2, Johanes 2.

**Scoring by quarters**: 23-24, 53-40, 73-48, 83-72.

# Weekend Sports

## CNMI All-Star teams in ASPAC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the CNMI Athletics Team and Mieko Carey, it was the Commonwealth's youth sluggers' turn to compete in off-island tournaments last week.

The CNMI Major All-Stars left for Chinese-Taipei for the 2012 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament, the Junior All-Stars went to Vietnam, and the Senior and Big League bets traveled to Guam.

The Junior All-Stars made it to the finals and was scheduled to face defending champion Chinese-Taipei in the finale last Friday. The Major All-Stars are out of the running, while their Seniors counterparts are undefeated as of last Friday and are likely to advance to the semifinals. The Big League All-Stars are still in the hunt against Guam and the Philippines. The ASPAC in Guam will conclude tonight.

In local events, teams scrambled for playoff seats in the various basketball leagues.

In the DLX/DL JOS caging, Team Pogi, Mawati, Irish Spring, and Marianas Water notched the four playoff berths in Pool A, while Brabu Gualo Rai and Banahaw joined Pool B Top 2 placers KFC/Taco Bell and the Fastbreakers to the next round.

In the Blue Haus caging, the quarterfinals cast was completed last week with the Hip Hop Thunder, Mobil, Ashley's and Wanted Sponsor joining the company of earlier qualifiers DLX, NVM, Loving Hands Day Care, and QQ Rent A Car.

In the UFO league, MDX/Armatech and Bayani/LBT Appraisal gained semis tickets in the Masters Budweiser Cup, while DYS/Bayani and MDX/Mariana Resort also won Final Four berths in the U20 division of the Docomo Pacific Cup.

In futsal, Wild Bill's swept the first round of the men's division of the 2012 SSS Summer Futsal League at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai. In the women's division, Shirley's is on top with a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss card, while Astig and IT&E are tied for the lead in the boys U18 with their identical 2-0-0 slate as of last Thursday.

There was also a tie for first place in the women's division of the Chamolinian softball league after Sakudi topped Check-It-Out in last Monday's game at the Capital Hill Ballfield, 12-8. Sakudi and Check-It-Out have similar 8-3 cards after last Monday's tiff.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The CNMI Senior All-Stars' Lancaster Secharmidal slides safely into home plate during their game against China in the 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament last Friday at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Hip Hop Thunder's Jomary Tumaquip, left, is fouled by Saipan Hardware's Errol Peredo during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Brabu Gualo Rai's Victor Mallari, right, pulls up for a shot against Sinigang's Prince Factor during their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hi-Five/POWER's Leo Cristobal collides against MDX/Mariana Resort's Ian Benavente during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Irish Pagarao, right, stops the ball while two Baked Girls defend her during the women's division game in the Saipan Soccer School futsal league at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MDX/Armatech's Martin Moreno stretches for a layup against Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's Sonny Ebuen during their playoff game in the UFO Budweiser Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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Yankees, Red Sox split double-header
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# Serena back on top, wins Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

**WIMBLEDON, England** (AP)—For Serena Williams, the low point came in early 2011, when she spent hours laying around her home, overwhelmed by a depressing series of health scares that sent her to the hospital repeatedly and kept her away from tennis for 10 months.

The high point came Saturday on Centre Court at Wimbledon, when Williams dropped down to the grass, hands covering her face. She was all the way back, a Grand Slam champion yet again.

Her serve as good as there is,

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AP
Serena Williams of the United States celebrates with the trophy after defeating Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the women's final match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Saturday, July 7, 2012.

## Senior All-Stars boost World Series bid

The CNMI Senior All-Stars shortstop AJ Lizama throws the ball after making a diving catch against Guam during their game in the 2012 Little League Baseball Asia Pacific Regional Tournament yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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RFEPORTER

**HAGATNA, Guam**—The CNMI Senior All-Stars eliminated Guam (2-2) in the 2012 Little League Baseball Asia Pacific Regional Tournament, following a 8-7 victory over the host team in yesterday's pool play game held at the Paseo Stadium.

The win will not be included in CNMI's overall standings, however, as it was randomly selected as the lone squad in the seven-team field to play all six games without a rest day. The Commonwealth bets officially hold a 3-1 record.

The CNMI needs a big win over New Zealand (3-1) today to win the championship via tiebreaker, however the runs allowed average of tied teams will determine which squad advances to the coveted Little League World Series tournament in August. The important game is scheduled for 8am.

The Commonwealth sluggers absorbed their lone loss in the tournament so far last

See SENIOR on Page 26

## Big League All-Stars hang on

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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RFEPORTER

**HAGATNA, Guam**—The CNMI Big League All-Stars are hanging by a thread with one game left on their schedule.

The CNMI (1-2) hopes for a Philippines (2-1) loss and a win over Guam (1-1) today, to force a three-way tie in the standings where the team with the lowest runs allowed average would be deemed the champion. Guam and the PH faced off yesterday at 5:15pm.

The third time was a charm for the CNMI, which managed its first win last Saturday after a close 3-2 victory over the Philippines.

The group coughed up a four-run lead in Friday's match against Guam and was stunned, 9-8, by its rival hosts. The Big League All-Stars also came up limp in the conclusion of their suspended meeting with the PH last Friday before the pair's second outing. The CNMI could not get its engine to start on the first crank and dropped the resumed match last Saturday, 2-3.

### Philippines 3, CNMI 2

The Philippines broke the ice with a run in the second inning, but CNMI knotted it back up at 1-apiece in the bottom portion. The PH's Miguel Salud reached on an error at third base, while the CNMI's Patrick Tenorio made it on with an infield hit to the pitcher. Both players were moved over by their teammates and stole home.

The CNMI then moved in front, 2-1, in the third inning after MacGarette Duenas smashed a base hit to left field and scored on an error behind the plate. The CNMI held the lead until the top of the fifth inning when the PH's leadoff batter Francisco Hashimoto cracked a single to center field and later stole the dish to lock the match at 2-all. The CNMI left two runners stranded in the bottom side.

It remained a standstill all

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## QQ, Ashley's enter semifinals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ashley's Dennis Cortez, left, goes up for a shot against Loving Hands' Ziddy Johanes during the third quarter of their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

QQ Rent A Car survived Wanted Sponsor's rally in the fourth quarter to eke out a 92-89 playoff win and advance to the semifinals of the 2012 Blue Haus Invitational League last Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

QQ lost a 10-point lead, 87-77, going into the final 2:02 of the game, before Kermit Concepcion and Badong Camacho's hit crucial baskets to save the win and eliminate Wanted Sponsor.

Two straight three-point plays brought Wanted Sponsor back in the game. Kae Bernardo made an and-1 play off a fastbreak basket, 80-87, and they regained possession off a steal in QQ's inbound play, leading to a Banjo Basila's underneath shot plus a foul.

Ahead by only four, 87-83, after Basila completed the three three-point play, Elgene Mangali rushed things for QQ and lost

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